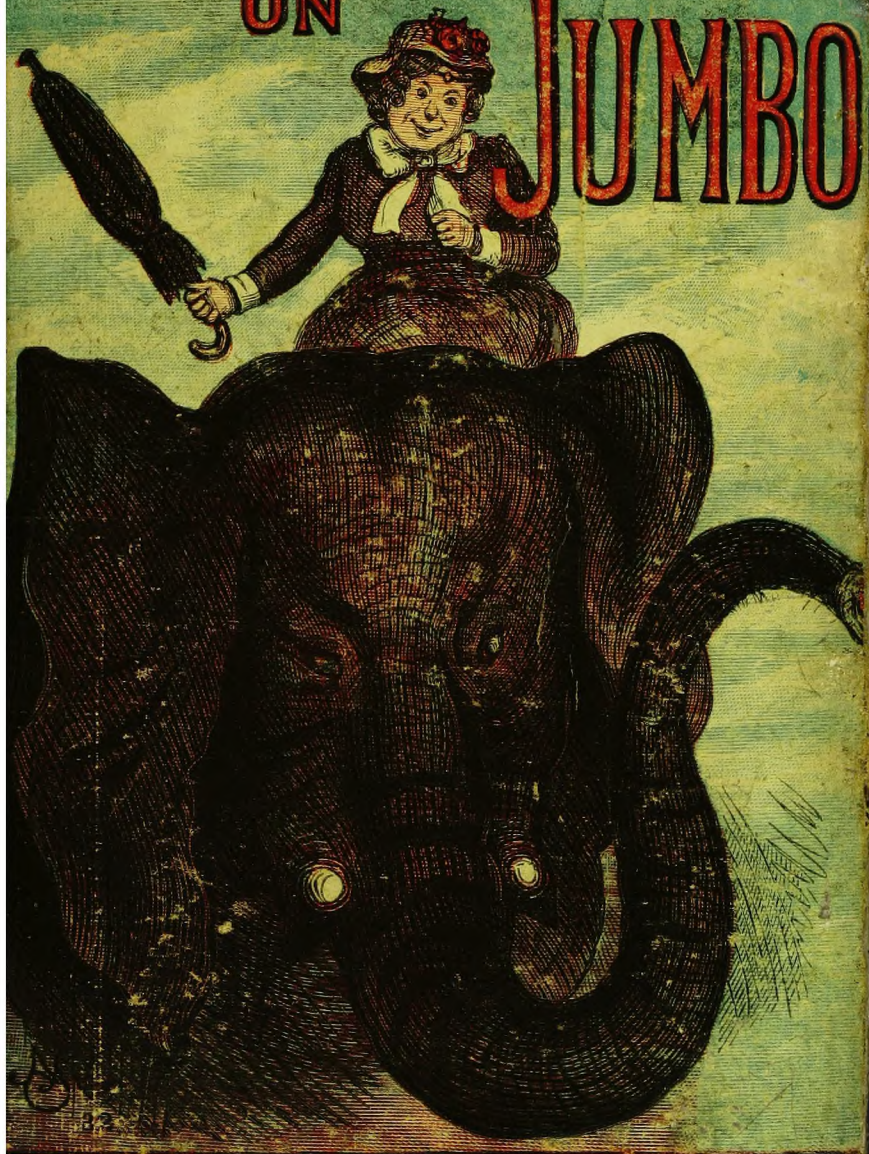




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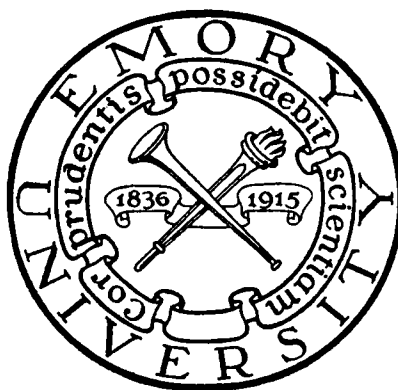
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# MRS. BROWN ON JUMBO

BY

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# MRS. BROWN ON JUMBO.



## INTRODUCTION.

I'm sure me and Miss Pilkinton 'as 'ad many a good cry over Jumbo, poor thing! to think of 'im bein' sold like a negro black slave, as wouldn't be allowed, even if he was only sham black, as is nothink but burnt cork, as is 'ard to get off without grease, as is a nasty mess any'ow. As I well remembers bein' done in fun one Christmas time, at a doctor's down Poplar way, as got the black on, as were that tight, that he went to bed without washin' of it off, as was werry nigh the death of 'is good lady, as didn't know he'd been and gone to bed afore 'er, and never come up till she'd see everythink locked up, and then come up with the plate-basket, as she dropped with a 'oller crash, a-ketchin' sight of a nigger in 'er bed, and give sich a scream, as brought in the assistant, as found

'er flat on the floor in a dead faint, as nearly killed 'er, poor thing, and ruined sheets and blankets as well as the pillers. But as to Jumbo, I do consider as it's a reglar disgrace, a-lettin' them Yankees 'ave sich a noble creetur, as I seems to know quite well, thro' a-rememberin' helefants all my life, partikler one, as did used to hact at the theayter, and werry nigh killed a carpenter every night, as was only in play, poor thing. Then there was one as was showed in the King's Muse, as they was called, as was royal stables, and stood jest agin where the Nelson Colum is put up, as was French, and wore a bonnet, as was jest about the time as King George the Fourth died, as I see the cream-colour 'osses come out on, with their blue eyes, along with the state carridge, as were a reglar glass coach all round, as I've see Queen Wictorier a-ridin' in, a-goin' to open Parlyment, when young, and to think as she should live to be shot at seven times, as is all thro' lettin' them wile revolutioners come over 'ere, with their revolvers, when they was drove out of France, as puts sich things into our people's 'eads, as wouldn't never dare to take sich a liberty with any lady, let alone a Queen; and sich a Queen, as might 'ave been a-swelterin' in 'er gore, poor dear, and all the world in mournin'. I must say as I blames them Merrykins over that murderin' willin Gitto, as they did ort to 'ave 'ung

to the fust tree as soon as ever the breath were out of that poor dear President's body, cos they see 'im do it, so there wasn't no need for no trial, nor yet for judge and jury ; and then to let 'im go on cheekin' 'em all the time as he were bein' tried, as shows as Merrykins want pullin' together, cos any country as goes on like that, must be a-goin' to bits rapid ; leastways, that's what Brown says, and he knows a thing or two, he does, and 'ave been all over the country, as he always says 'ave sprung up like a mushroom in a night, and will go down like a rocket stick, all of a-suddin one fine day. In course, we shouldn't go to war over Jumbo, unless it were a civil one, as is wot they're used to over there, as is 'ow we made 'em give up them two fellers, as they 'ad the impidence to collar aboard an English steamer, not as we cared for them, as wasn't worth quarrellin' over, a couple of skally wags, I've 'eard say, but as Brown said, it were a matter of principle, as we 'ad to stand up for, and no doubt if it 'appened now, Old Bright would persuade Old Gladstin, as it were sinful to quarrel over it, and so we should 'ave to give way, as we did over them Allybammer Claims, as they aint never give us back the money as we overpaid 'em above their rights. Not as that's got anythink to do with Jumbo, as in course Old Barnum 'ave bought and paid for 'onerable, so in course must 'ave the

animal, cos it's a debt of honour, like money as you loses at cards; but them Jewlogical Fellers did ort to be tarred and feathered for sellin' 'im.

So I says to Miss Pilkinton, "We'll go and see the dear old creetur once more."

"Yes," she says, "and Mrs. Padwick is a-dyin' to pat 'is old trunk."

"But," I says, "he aint old, but only a infant, in the way of helefants, as they're afraid as he'll outgrow 'is cage, and bust forth, as is terrible things in a rage, cos I remember when we was in Afriker, a-'earin' in goin' thro' one part, where they runs wild, as parties is more afraid of 'em than tigers broke loose, as a lady were a-tellin' meas 'er own 'usban was kep' up a tree by 'em over three days out shootin', and see 'em ketch two little boys on the 'op, as they reglar grounded to powder with kneelin' on 'em, as you'd think would be that unwieldy as they couldn't move fast, but she said as no greyhounds wasn't quicker arter a 'are than one of the helefants a-pursuin' man or beast as they'd got a grudge agin, as is all temper, cos it aint as if it was their prey as they was arter, but don't want no hanimal food escept it were grass and roots, so only kills things out of spite, as I never will believe is Jumbo's ways, or he wouldn't be that fond of 'is keeper, and carry them children on 'is back like a lamb; not as I should

like 'im to take me round the waist with 'is trunk, cos he might give a lovin' 'ug as would break in your ribs, stays, bones, and all, and not mean you no 'arm; the same as treadin' on your toe in steppin' back'ards, tho' he's that artful as he can see round the corner, in my opinion, as 'ave got a leery look with 'is eye, with ears as sharp as they're flat to the side of 'is 'ead, as looks like large leaves a-flappin' about; but for all that he's a noble beast, and in course tho' Queen Wictorier is too much the lady to take a mean advantage of any showman, and say as he shan't go, yet no doubt she'll give that Jewlogical Gardins a nasty one some day when they least expects it over Jumbo, as no doubt she'd 'ave went to 'ave said good-bye too, only 'ad 'er time that took up with Old Gladstin a-worretin' over Ireland, as put everythink else out of 'er 'ead for the time bein', and all of a 'urry to get back to Winsor, a little dreamin' as assassins was lurkin' round 'er werry carridge door, and not a perliceman a-lookin' out; and wherever was John Brown, not to 'ave 'ad 'is weather eye up? But as to parties a-sayin' as he were in the carridge along with the Queen, were downright insultin' impidence as well as hignorance to say such a thing, cos tho' in course he's a most respectable party, like all them Ighlanders, so wouldn't never take sich a liberty unless he were took ill sudden, or run over by the

Queen's own orders, like that outrider, the other day, thro' 'er 'avin' that feelin' 'art for all them as is about 'er, as would telegraft to the moon to inquire after anyone as 'ad fell out of a balloon or met with any accident; and if she 'ad a 'air of 'er royal 'ead so much as singed, why, that wretch of a feller would 'ave been tore limb from limb by every man, woman, and child all over England. Cos it's all werry fine to blow up Hemperors and shoot Presidents, but we aint neither Rooshins nor yet Merrykins, and won't stand such goin's-on in cold blood; and as to bein' starvin', wot's that got to do with it, as would 'ave been some escuse for 'is shootin' a deer in the Park, or stealin' a quartern loaf, tho' he could not 'ave cooked it, nor yet sold the wenison without bein' found out by the smoke among the trees, let alone the smell; and I do think as the shorter work as they makes on it the better, as is all idle curiosity a-wantin' to know who he is, and where he came from, and whether he's got politics behind 'im. Who cares if he's Hirish or Scotch? he'll 'ang all the same, as he did ort to for 'is impidence; and they didn't ort to let the Queen know anythink about it, as would be easy done now, as she's goin' abroad; cos it's all werry fine for Brown to say as it wouldn't be constitutional, but I should like to know if it's part of the British Constitution for to 'ave the Queen shot

at, jest as if she were a prize at Wimbledon ; cos, tho' Bradlor and 'is lot may think so, thank goodness we aint all Bradlors, yet tho' preaps a-hurryin' that way as leads to destruction in the long run." Brown he don't like me to talk pollytics afore 'is friends, as 'ad dropped in for a pipe, so I shet up till Mr. Wells, as lives oppersite in the silver-chasin' line, off Long Acre, as 'ad money with 'is fust wife, as were a gold-beater's dorter, as aint the business it were, as I well remembers, with a gold harm and a 'ammer stickin' out of the front wall, as is all took down. So he says to me, " Mrs. Brown, jest to change the subjie, wot do you think of Jumbo ? "

" Well," I says, " he's a wonder of the 'ole world, in my opinion, as did ort to teach us not to look down upon nothink as we considers beasts of the field as perishes, as nobody in their senses can't consider him, thro' helefants not a-livin' in fields as a rule, as we all knows, not by natur, unless born in 'em, but, as we all knows, there aint no rule without a deception, as the sayin' is, so might be coaxed into that cage, but as to tryin' deception, it won't wash, for he's a deal too deep for that, the same as in my opinion, so will the wessel be in the water as carries 'im out, for I remembers werry well a cart'orse as made a difference aboard of a ship we was in, as bit the butcher's nose off, tho' only in

play; not as Jumbo would bite, tho' a prog with one of 'is front teeth, as they calls tusks, would give any one a wunner in the small of the back a-comin' behind 'im suddin, and shan't never forget myself a-seein' of 'im a-comin' thro' that tunnel in the Jewlogical Gardins, as met 'im full butt, as were that took aback, so took and turned that suddin, as I sent a old gent in a white 'at and green spectacles a-flyin', thro' a-comin' down on 'is gouty toe backwards, as swore frightful, tho' it were a Sunday, thro' losin' 'is presence of mind along with 'is umbreller and equalibraum, and give a lady in widder's weeds a back'ander with 'is elber across 'er face in a bath-chair."

Not as I were in the least afeard of Jumbo myself, thro' 'avin' knowed helefants from a mere child, as I should say thirteen 'underd buns in one day were a deal too many even for a 'orse's stomick, on the top of two trusses of 'ay, as is 'is breakfast, and fillin' at the price, with two buckets of water, we all knows.

I well remembers 'earin' of a party as lived down the Bow Road, as werry nigh died thro' a bet as he'd eat sixpenorth of buns and drink three glasses of bottle stout in 'arf a 'our, as brought 'im 'ome in a cab black in the face, and wouldn't never 'ave drored 'is breath agin but for old cheese, as they rammed down with the 'andle of a carvin'

knife, as nearly slipped down too, as would be like the sailor with 'is stomick in Guy's 'Ospital full of clasp knives, as he did used to swaller for fun if any one would stand 'im drinks, a greedy beast, till a buck'orn 'andle proved one too many for 'im one fine day, as did ort to 'ave been brort in feller-de-sea, as might be a warnin' to them other sailors not to cut theirselves off like that, as is great presumption, in my opinion.

But as to Jumbo, poor dear, he's a downright lamb for gentleness, and give me that turn a-'earin' of the poor dear not a-wantin' to go over to be shown to them Merrykins, as no doubt he knows the 'abits on, thro' 'avin' seen 'em in them gardins a-squirtin' of their beastly baccy juice all over the place, as no doubt he 'ave thought a reglar noosance with only a few of them as 'ave come to see 'im in London, so in course don't want to 'ave fifty millions on 'em all at the same game, as would 'arf drown'd even a helefant. So in course he wouldn't go willin', as were enuf to make any one shed tears with a feelin' 'art, to think as he's that fond of his native land, as is the Jewlogical Gardins, and won't leave 'is pals, partikler with chains on 'is legs, as any one would consider a hinsult, let alone a helefant, as might 'ave went quiet if spoke to reasonable, and as to 'is temper, why, in course, it's uncertain like the rest on us, the same as the

weather; and can well remember the one as they shot in Hexeter Change with the toothache, as did used to stand jest where there's a theayter now, oppersite the turnin' as leads up to Waterloo Bridge, as I didn't see shot myself thro' bein' that young, tho' I 'ad a picter on it give me, as was not a sight for a child, as was considered dangerous, and kicked up that orful riot in the Strand, so they 'ad to call out the troops and fire, in course.

Arter they'd read the Riot Act over 'im, the same as my own mother's aunt see 'em do in Obin, at Lord George Gordon's riots, as burnt down Noo-gate, and drunk the sperrits as was runnin' thro' the kennels, thro' the mob a-bustin' into the great distillery near 'Atton Gardin, as a many on 'em was burnt thro' it a-ketchin' fire, like blue blazes on a plum-puddin', as I considers 'ighly dangerous myself, and 'ave caused death afore now in a private family, as was Christmas time, as didn't never ought to be brought into the room all flames, with young ladies with light frocks on, as is 'ighly inflammable, tho' it were more the shock than the burnin' as kills.

But as I were a-sayin' to Brown arter Mr. Wells, 'ad went 'ome afore supper, for Miss Pilkinton 'ad been readin' that evenin' to me about Jumbo, I says, "Ah! Brown," I says, "there's a many as might learn a lesson of that dear dumb brute, and put

'em to shame, as is fond of leavin' their homes, the same as that young Welbyn as in goin' off never said good-bye, not even to 'is own mother; and as to that willin' Watts, as deserted 'is wife and family from the 'Rising Sun,' why, Jumbo's a reglar Christshun compared to 'im in 'is ways, as went off, trunk and all, with everythink in it as were wuth a farthin', a 'ard-hearted beast, and left 'er without 'ardly a change, along with a hinfant three days old, as were rolled up in a old piller case." But I must say as when I 'eard as Jumbo were a-goin' to be expecterated like them Fenians, as 'ave gone off to Merryker, so as not to be put in prison like that Parnell, as were sent to quod cos he 'ad the impidence for to dare to set upon Old Gladstin and pick 'is speech to pieces, as put the kibosh on him, as the sayin' is, and 'ad 'im run in in two twos; cos, in course, wot's the use of bein' Prime Minister if you can't 'ave all the talk to yourself, as is why Brown don't never go to church, cos he can't 'ave 'is say when the minister 'ave 'ad 'is. As Brown says is why Gladstin is a-goin' to bring in this 'ere Cloture, for to shet parties up as is a-goin' to contradict 'im, like that there Biggar, as called 'im a wain old man, and took and pitched into 'is son, as in course 'urt 'im, thro' bein' 'is own flesh and blood, and it aint nat'ral as any father should like to set by and 'ear 'is own

son called a fool, tho' he may know werry well as it's true all the time; not but wot Gladstin would 'ave showed 'isself more the gentleman if he'd 'ave got up and called order, and then proved as 'is son were not sich a fool as he looks, and can't 'elp it if he is, thro' bein' born so, as is the same as a 'ump-back or a clump-foot; and all I've got to say if they tries to force Jumbo now, as they've let 'im 'ave 'is own way once, why, he'll kick over the traces, as the sayin' is, as did ought to 'ave been conkered the fast time, like a child or a bullock, as will lay down till they sets light to some shavin's near 'im, as no doubt frightens any hanimal, and might 'ave sent Jumbo a-flyin' over Primrose 'Ill, and might 'ave got on to Finchley afore he could be stopped; but next time as they tries to move 'im they'd better look out for squalls.

## MRS. BROWN ON JUMBO.

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IT were Thursday as me and Miss Pilkinton 'ad made up our minds to go and see Jumbo the werry next Sunday, as is a day as I always goes out on like a many others as is busy theirselves likewise their friends all the week, wot with workin' and cleanin' up, so always looks forard to my Sunday for to enjoy myself, like my mother afore me, as remembered goin' to Bagnige Wells of a Sunday evenin' to 'ear the orgin, as was all put down by the Methodists a-comin' in as meant well; but come it too strong, as set a many agin 'em partikler about enjoyin' of yourself in a quiet way of a Sunday as is Brown's ways, as I quite agrees with 'im to 'ave rashunal amusements for to improve the mind of a Sunday as in course is a werry different thing to workin' and labourin' all day long, like some of them buss men, as don't get a quarter of a 'our clear for a bit of wittles, not as I'd stop busses a-runnin' nor yet trams, nor steamboats as did ort to be extra of a Sunday, as is the way as poor people can get about to see their friends; I'd put a penny

on to the fares, as would pay for extra 'ands so as all might enjoy theirselves, and see their friends on Sunday as is a reglar 'ollyday as parties didn't ort to work on the same as France, and as is forbid to Catherlics as well as Protestants, but both does it, so it ain't nothink about religion. I'm sure out in Horsetralier Sunday is a day of orrer as bad as Scotland with gettin' drunk on the sly the only thing to do out of church time.

Me and Miss Pilkinton we'd jest fixed it when in come young Tom Flinders a-sayin' as the Queen 'ad been shot dead thro' the 'art.

I says, "Never! it wouldn't be allowed," and over I runs with my legs a-bendin' under me thro' fright to the "Blue Lion" as Mrs. Flinders keeps ever since she berried 'im in plumes for to show 'er respects, as 'ad give 'isself a injury with a rusty iron 'oop as 'ad got loose round a barrel as turned into a absiss and 'ad to take his leg off as he sunk under, as shows it's all nonsense a-talkin' about parties bein' kep' up with brandy, for that man 'ad been known to take sixteen glasses 'ot between tea and bed let alone supper beer and a nip now and then, as wasn't nothink but 'is 'oggish greedy ways, and downright waste, as many a poor creetur were a-sinkin' thro' the want on, and as to puttin' on that man's tombstone as he were lamented I should 'ave put "the least said the better" over a man as

were a reglar bloated sot and no comfort nor yet benefit to no one, a-drinkin' up all 'is own profits. I don't believe as that boy 'll ever come to no good a-runnin' over to stuff me up about Queen Wictorier bein' shot, as I considers a 'artless 'oax, not as Miss Pilkinton need 'ave went off in issterics on Mr. Munders, as is the water rate a-waitin' for his money, as I'd went for, a-clingin' round 'is neck, a-sayin', "Oh! my sov'rin; I've lost my sov'rin," as I 'eard 'er a-yellin', jest as I come into the room suddin not 'avin' 'eard nothink about the Queen, and says, "Then I'm sure you didn't lose it 'ere, nor yet 'arf a sov'rin," as made young Flinders bust out a-sayin' as she meant the Queen not 'er 'ead. So when 'is mother told me it were all that boy's fun, I says, "I don't see no fun in it, as a werry unproper joke, as if he were a boy of mine I'd warm 'im for."

Old Weeble he were a-settin in the "Blue Lion" as says as he didn't see no reason to make sich a fuss if she were a Queen, as wasn't everybody, and 'ad 'ad a good innin's.

It reglar put me out to 'ear that old willin speak like that, so I says to 'im, "You're a nice un to talk about your betters like that."

He says he didn't consider nobody 'is betters.

"Well," I says, "there's one thing pretty certin as there's few wuss, to my way of thinkin', as 'ave been a reglar noosance to every one as be-

longed to you, and a burden on your children now, as won't let you starve for their mother's sake, as you was the death on."

He says, "I'll make you prove your words."

I says, "As I'll do so with pleasure, as aint no Bradlor, and refuse to take my oath, tho' it might 'ang you, as it did ort to arter the way you treated that dear creetur as forgive you with 'er dyin' breath, as were the last she ever drored in my arms. I could 'ave 'ad you mobbed over 'er funeral, and might espose you now." He turned pale at them words, and went out a-mutterin' insults as he dursn't 'ave spoke out, and I says to Mrs. Flinders, the ideer of that idle pot-'ouse scum a-darin' to speak like that about Queen Wictorier, as 'll be a dark day as takes 'er away from us.

Mrs. Flinders, tho' she's a bit of a Radical, and no wonder arter 'avin' sich a tyrant over 'er as Flinders, 'ad a down on Bradlor, for when 'er boy come in and says, "'Urra, Bradlor's in," as she didn't 'old with, so began to blow the boy up. I says, "Is he, my boy? you'd better go and play," as started 'im off, and I says to 'er, "You're rong to blow 'im up over Bradlor, cos that'll only make 'im stick up for 'im the more, as is a filthy beast, as didn't ought to be noticed, and if them 'ands in Northampton likes sich a man for Parlyment, they only shows as it were a error for to let 'em 'ave

wotes, as will work its own cure, give 'em rope enuf and they'll 'ang themselves and Bradlor too, and if Old Gladstin was throwed in it wouldn't be no great loss."

But, I says, "I certingly shall go to see Jumbo on Sunday with a light 'art;" not but wot I think them as is about Queen Wictorier is werry much to blame as guards 'er with sojers and outriders and all manner, when there aint no chance of danger, and then lets a waggerbone get that near 'er, the only time as he could 'ave 'ad a opportunity for to do 'er a 'arm. I suppose now they'll be a-shuttin' everybody out of the railway stations when she goes about, and quite right too, but why ever wasn't that done afore, as nobody didn't ought to get near the Queen as aint beknown to be respectable. Not as she's safe, cos it's on the cards, as Brown were a-sayin', as Gladstin will give Bradlor a place in the Cabinet, as they calls it, as must be a werry small place as they meets in, so as nobody shan't 'ear what they're a-sayin'; and in course a man like that would do anythink.

I do wonder, as Brown says, as all them Liberals, and there's a many on 'em quite tip-top, don't take and turn Gladstin up, as is a disgrace to their party, and reglar makin' fools on 'em, as well as bullyin' 'em to death, as won't let 'em call their souls their own.

But law bless me, I aint afeard when I think about it, and 'ow them Chartists was put down a many years ago, tho' Gladstin would put 'isself at the 'ead on, if they was to come up agin, now as there's no Duke of Wellington for to put 'is foot down firm on 'em. No doubt Queen Wictorier smiles at any willin pintin' a pistol at 'er thro' 'avin' of a clear consence, and as to Bradlor, he may die Archbishop of Canterbury, and Gladstin turn Turk, for all as any one can tell to the contrary; cos in course polytics only means wot any one like them can get out of 'em the same as France, as is a pretty kettle of fish, as the sayin' is; but rogues is sure to fall out, and then honest folks gets their own.

It's a mussy as that waggerbone's bullet only 'it the wheel, as must 'ave frightened all her Royal family dreadful, specially that there sweet Princess Beatrice, as could do nothink to save 'er royal ma, tho' they do say as she see 'im pint the revolver, as were enough to frighten 'er to death, poor dear, only she 'adn't time to think of the Hemperor of Roosher, nor yet poor Old Garfield, in the 'urry of the moment, tho' thirty yards is too near to be pleasant, with five more barrels to come, as wasn't all loaded.

As to Jumbo a-goin' to Merryker, I says why not take Bradlor, as they could make a lion on

easier than Jumbo, as is wot Bradlor wants to be, and Jumbo certingly don't.

I expects now as Queen Wictorier 'ave been shot at in 'er turn, as Barnum as is a fast-rate party, quite as good as a king over in Merryker, will ask if the Queen of England will escept Jumbo jest as a triflin' token of 'is respect. Barnum is a fast-rate party for takin' anyone about, as is famous for showin' parties all over Merryker; but 'owever at 'is time of life he can run them risks, wot with 'avin' wild beasts and gorillers, with serpints and singers all round him, I can't think as Wan Ambug, the lion tamer, as I see along with Queen Wictorier in the lion's den myself, is a fool to 'im, and now to start agin as fresh as ever, tho' a teatotaler, as no doubt he sticks to, as was bottled lemonade and soda-water, as aint much to go all over Merryker on with twenty helefants under 'im, jest to show 'isself, tho' no doubt a werry clever man, as I see 'is minnagery myself in New York, as 'ad a goriller carryin' off a gal from the top winders, stretched right across the street, as was showed alive inside, leastways would 'ave been only 'is temper were that orful as nobody dursn't look at 'im, not even thro' 'is cage. They'd better not try it on too far with Jumbo about 'is cage, as might break loose and cut out into St. John's Wood, as no omblibus in this world couldn't stop 'im, nor yet the steam-roller in Baker Street,

as is a wonderful invention for to beat down the stones in the road, as is dreadful jolty work to get over inside a buss, and that noise as you can't 'ear yourself speak thro' 'em. But, lor' bless yer, nothink to a helefant, as I should like to tackle that waggerbone, a-darin' to fire at the Queen, as might 'ave killed John Brown or a outrider, let alone a lady in waitin', or even a equerry, as in course would 'ave been proud to die for 'is Queen, but most like a family man 'isself: and then for the feller a-sayin' as he done it thro' 'unger, when he'd got that pistol as he could 'ave made enuf for a meal on, if not more. Not as I 'olds with that Heton boy a-pitchin' into 'im with 'is umbreller, as belonged to 'is ma most likely, or was borrered from a aunt, as no doubt he broke to bits, and didn't do no good when the waggerbone were ketched a'ready, as did ort to be put away somewheres and forgot for the rest of 'is days, and not come no bounce as to 'is 'avin' shot at a live suv'rin. As I always says whoever would be a crowned 'ead, as must 'ave 'eavy waits to bear, let alone old winegar wisaged William, as must be a nice noosance a-standin' over anyone and tellin' 'em wot to say, as I'm sure I should 'ave give 'im a nasty one over Ireland if I'd been Queen, not as I should 'ave noticed Bradlor myself, nor yet that mob as cheered 'im, as is jes' wot he's fit for. But as to bein' a Queen I wouldn't,

if it was ever so, as 'ave always been treated shameful from the time of Old 'Arry, as nobbled six on 'em, down to that poor dear creetur, as is wot my mother considered Queen Caroline, as come from Germiny, and was took back that way to be berried, poor creetur, as 'ad 'er faults no doubt; but I aint no patience with that King George, as married 'er jest to get 'is debts paid, and then be'aved shameful, a-neglectin' 'er, not as ever I understood 'ow marryin' 'er could pay anythink, as 'adn't a farden with 'er, nor yet 'ardly a change of clothes to 'er back, poor thing, and they do say took to drinkin', without a second pair of stockin's; but, law bless me, we did ort all on us to be werry thankful as we aint born crowned-'eads, nor even Royal families, as is dreadful 'ard put upon, and can't be wot religion they pleases, nor marry anyone as they likes, and is all watched and guarded everywhere, and yet can't be kep' out of arm's way, without a pistol pinte at your 'ead, and no wonder Queen Wictorier tries to get away from it all. Not as we can fly from dangers as will overtake us everywhere, as I well remembers myself a lady, as were takin' a quiet walk down a country lane, as was run down by a mad bull, as come be'ind 'er un-awares, and sent 'er flyin' over a 'edge, as it's lucky weren't the side of a presypitch, the same as I knowed a party as were shipwrecked a-goin' out to

Sydney, thro' the wessel a-runnin' on the rocks, as she climbed up and settled there, as were, when I were there, lan'lady of a werry nice little pub, as is where a good many Captings put up at, thro' 'er 'usban's bein' the son of a captin' 'isself, as went down arterwards with all 'ands somewhere's off the Land's End, as is where the sea begins in real earnest.

It were quite wonderful to 'ear the tales as that Mrs. Corker could tell, as come from Cornwall, about all the wrecks as she'd knowed and 'eard tell on, with parties brought into 'er 'ouse drippin' wet and give over for dead, as 'ot blankets and bricks to the soles of their feet 'ad brought to life agin when past 'ope, with the sea a-runnin' out of 'em by the gallon at every pore, as shows wot a fine thing perspiration is, tho' it may be carried too far, the same as Mrs. Lardin in the Turkish bath, as I really did think would 'ave esploded in the 'ot room, where I found 'er a-settin' in a pair of pattens and a wet towel round 'er 'ead, as like myself were reduced to fronts at a early age thro' a brain fever.

Not but wot she were a total stranger to me that day, as I were overpersuaded by Mrs. Drumley to 'ave one of them Turkish baths as she told me would make me twenty year younger, the same as all them Turkey's wives is done reglar once a week for to keep 'em young.

I'm sure it's a mussy as ever I come out agin alive, for wot with the ways, as I were kep' in constant 'ot water and then cold, and 'awled at, and mawled at, with my jints cracked, and scraped down like a 'oss, let alone bein' put into one place arter another, as were 'otter than the fust, and drowned in cold water at the end, I never did.

It was when I got into the 'ottest room, more dead than alive, as I see that Mrs. Lardin, as I didn't know from Adam, leastways Eve I did ort to say, and give me sich a turn at fust goin' in, for she looked for all the world like a lusty old gentleman bein' biled.

So I set down on a chair as struck like a grid-iron. I watches 'er, and arter a bit when I see 'er with eyes a-startin' out of 'er 'ead and as red as a fresh-biled lobster, and 'er wains all a-swellin' up round 'er temples, as thick as your little finger, so I says, "Escuse me, mum, but are a-doin' this under advice."

She turns on me like a dragon-fly, and says, "Wots that to you? None of your larks with me."

"Well," I says, "it's a deal to me, for I can see as it won't be no lark with you, as will 'ave a fit in a minit, and me not 'avin' strength to drag you out by your 'eels, thro' 'avin' no roots of your 'air to lay 'old on, as aint long enuf for me to do it."

She jumps up all of a 'urry to rush out, when 'er foot give a twist, and down she fell such a splosh, as was enuf to 'ave bust 'er. It certinly is lucky as them doors is made for to swing on their 'inges, or I shouldn't never 'ave shoved 'er thro' it by the shoulders into the next place, as is cooler by many 'undred degrees, tho' far above bilin' pint even there for 'eat, as is as much as Mrs. Drumley says she can bear, thro' takin' 'em constant for 'er roomatics.

It were ever so long afore that poor Mrs. Lardin got right, as clung to me like a sister, a-beggin' and a-prayin' of me not to leave 'er there no more to be biled in cold blood.

I must say as I were glad when I see 'er dressed and to rights, and then me and Mrs. Drumley put 'er down at 'er own door, as wanted us to stop to tea, but couldn't, so give 'er into the charge of 'er dorter-in-law, a forbiddin'-lookin' fieldmale, close agin the Fondlin', as were a good bit out of my way, thro' a-wantin' to get 'ome, espectin' Mrs. Ewins to tea, and wouldn't 'ave trusted myself in a buss full of drafts with my pores all open for the world.

Certingly, Brown did say to me at tea as I'd got more colour in my face than he'd see there for many a long day, and Mrs. Ewins said I looked the gal agin, but I must say as I considers it were brought

on more by 'eat than 'ealth with all that rubbin' and scrubbin'.

I never 'eard the end of Mrs. Lardin, tho' I see 'er once more, thro' callin', as were only on a wisit to 'er dorter-in-law, and frightful subjjic to asmer, thro' goin' 'ome into Dorsetshire the next day, but owes me 'er life wherever she may be, as I told 'er dorter-in-law the week arter, as only said, "Ah! she aint so easily killed as you thinks."

So I didn't take to that woman, and merely says, "Give 'er my respects in writin', and next time as she comes to town don't let 'er go to no Turkey baths a-galliwantin' about by 'erself."

She only says, "Next time she comes I'll send for you to look arter 'er as wants a keeper," and almost shet the door in my face; and never so much as asked me to step into the parler and rest myself, not as I wanted to bein' only jest out of the buss, but can't a-bear to see parties without no manners as is wot makes the man, as the sayin' is, the want on 'em the feller and all the rest is leather and pruneller, as ain't used now so much for boots and shoes since alpacker come in, as I never knowed really wot it was till I went to Horsetralier—the same as Paramatter—as is a town. But as I were a-sayin' I'd made up my mind to see Jumbo agin, whether dead or alive, so says Miss Pilkinton and Mrs. Padwick, thro' all a-feelin' like mothers to the poor hanimal

not as I'm one for pets, and couldn't take not to the rinoscerous nor yet the ipperpotymus, if it was to save my life, yet fond of dumb creeturs in the main, and wouldn't stand by and see a mad dog ill-used thro' wantin' cruelty. Not as I cares about goin' out along with Miss Pilkinton, specially Sunday, as will fancy 'erself a perfessional beauty tho' they 'ave quite gone out and one on 'em come down to play-actin', poor thing. Miss Pilkinton she wears a yaller wig with paint and flour on 'er face, as may be all werry well for them as gets their bread by it but don't look well in a middle age party, and as to 'er a-gettin' to be behind a refreshment bar, or in a milliner's for to catch a young nobleman as is weak in 'is intellex ; why, she wouldn't never do it not if he were out of Bedlam and she was there a-waitin' 'undred years, and took pison in the end for a sensation, as I aint no pity for sich rubbish myself a-pretendin' to be them innercent lambs as knows their ways about quite well, and then gets cort sometimes by some lardy dar, as aint got a shillin', poor wretch, for to bless 'imself with. But, law bless me, arter all the way as I 'ave been and the things I 'ave seen, I don't seem to mind anythink, not as I should fancy bein' at sea with Jumbo in a open boat as is wot he might come to if wrecked, as no doubt would be throwed overboard to lighten the wessel—I'm sure I wouders as I'm alive to tell the tale as to

wot 'appened to me in goin' about in Horsetralier, leastways Tasmanier, as is lovely, as is the same thing, I always thinks in the end, as the sayin' is.

It were jest on eight as we went aboard that boat, as were bound for Launstun, and werry full and nearly all the berths took, not but wot there were one for me and Brown, leastways I means two, one a top of the other.

But of all the 'eat as ever I did feel that berth were the wust; as made me turn that faint in the middle of the night as out I got all of a 'urry and rushes into the cabin for hair.

I were more asleep than awake, or in course shouldn't never 'ave gone out like that all in my dishy bille, as the sayin' is, but in my confusion I staggers to one of them benches as was by the side of the table, and down I sets with a flop a-feelin' I were jest a-goin' off.

I 'ave 'eard tell of a sailor as landed on a wail, and lighted a fire thro' a-takin' of it for dry land, as plunged down into the deep with 'im on 'is back, but I'm sure no wail in this world ever plunged wuss than the party as were a-layin' asleep on that bench, as I'd been and set down on unawares, for he give a wiolent 'eave like, and sent me on to the floor with a bounce enuf to sink the wessel, partikler as in fallin' I'd tried to ketch at somethink to save myself, as proved to be another gentleman's

'air, as I pulled off the bench on to the floor along with me.

The row as them parties made roused all the wessel pretty nigh, with the steward a-comin' with candles a-flarin' all over the place, as I considers werry dangerous at sea with all them draughts about.

I'm sure when they picked me up I thought as I must be dislocated all over at every jinte; but wouldn't go back in the berth, as 'ad nearly been my death, as Brown 'adn't never come a-near.

So I 'uddles on my waterproof and goes up on deck to find 'im, and there I see 'im a-settin' jest where I left 'im, as is wot they calls mid ships.

He were a-leanin' of 'is 'ead down, 'avin' of a nap. So I goes up to 'im and says, "Here I am, my dear, jest make room for me to set down by you, as it will be a comfort to 'ave a friendly arm round me."

He didn't make no anser; so I says, "Come, that's a dear, be good-natured, and make room for me."

Up turns a 'ead on me, as I could see weren't Brown's, nor yet the langwidge as were used neither; as said, with many a oath, as I were a wile old 'ussey, and telling me to go to the werry place as it's my constant 'opes never to set eyes on.

It wasn't no use me a-sayin' anythink about

makin' a mistake, for that party as I'd been and disturbed were jest then took that dreadful bad, as jumped up a-'angin' over the side of the wessel, so in course he couldn't listen to reason ; with a weak stomach and a good deal of sea on, along with a 'eavy roll.

Anythink were better than that cabin ; so arter I'd looked round in wain for Brown, I got a seat in a corner, and there I stopped till mornin's light, tho' the sea did keep a-breakin' over me ; and jest at daylight the rain come down enuf to drench you to the skin, as is where Brown found me, and give me a 'ot cup of tea, with a little somethink in it, as I don't believe as ever I should 'ave see Old Ingland agin alive without. When I looked up, there were the town wisible ever so far off, thro' bein' a flat country, but bein' sandy makes it all the more tedious to get up to it. But talk of sand, Afriker's the place for that, as is knee deep some parts, both by sea and by land, as perwents you a-landin' werry often, and is all werry well for wild beasts, and agrees no doubt with serpents, as I told the man at the Jewlogical Gardins that day as I went there, as they did ought to sprinkle the dens with, the same as the bottom of a bird's cage, as would make them hanimals feel more 'appy, tho' they might get savidge a-feelin' themselves more at 'ome, a-thinkin' of bein' back agin among their

old aunts, and come some of their dewourin' ways, specially the serpints, as is most deceitful, and been known to try and swaller their blankets thro' bein' tired of life, the same as parties in prison 'ave took and 'anged theirselves in their own suspenders, as is wot them Merrykins, as is that upper crust in their talks, calls braces.

I must say as I pities Jumbo aboard ship, tho' in course they'll let 'im walk about on deck in fine weather, and take buns and oranges in 'is trunk, and carry the children on 'is back, as'll keep 'is 'and in agin the time as he gets over to Merryker, where I do 'ope as he'll keep 'is temper, as I don't believe as he will if he should 'ear some of them blowin' Yankees abusin' Old England, and talk about comin' over 'ere to lay London in hashes, as they've got to get 'ere fust, as no doubt they'll try it on by a-comin' thro' France on the quiet when that Tunnel is finished, cos they can pertend as they're only come for to see Paris, and then slip over on the sly, as no doubt them Communists as is now a-rainin' in France would wink at 'elpin' the Merrykins, as they've done afore. Not but wot we could soon stop their little game thro' a-lettin' the water into the Tunnel jest as they'd got arf way thro' one of them Sink Ports, as they calls 'em, as the Dook of Wellington had the care on, as would soon turn it into a common shore.

Not but wot I 'as my misgivin's over that Tunnel, as I were a-thinkin' of 'ritin' to Queen Wictorier, over'er a-sayin' as she'd thank the parties as made it with all the ladies of England, as I do not 'old with, cos tho' in course we all knows as sea-sickness is a orful sensation, yet I'd rather bust everythink between Dover and Calais than 'ave the French a-marchin' over on dry ground; cos tho' we might soon make 'em walk their chawks over the cliffs back agin, as the sayin' is, it would be a orful shock to see old Gravy and Gambetter walk out at Cherrin' Cross Station with all the French sang queer lots, as they calls 'em, arter 'em, as would take the Alambrier for a pallis, and settle all round Lester Square, as in course the perlice would soon disperse 'em, and send 'em back under the Wagrants' Act; yet it would give trouble, and cost money too, as would fall on the rates, as is 'eavy enuf now, goodness knows, and not enuf to keep the paupers in Marrybone, for they can't afford to give the old women in the workus no tea, and there's other parishes where they've cut off the paupers' beer to make up the money as one of them clerks lost and levanted with along with the overseer's wife, as they 'ad to get back out of somebody, so in course it fell on the poor.

I do say, and I will say, as them Jewlogical parties—they may well call 'em fellers—didn't ort

to 'ave sold Jumbo like that, without a-findin' out whether he'd like to go or not, as 'is keeper could 'ave found out werry easy thro' 'im 'avin' them wonderful instinx, as is better than speakin' for to show your feelin's, partikler with a helefant, as is like a many others, with a word and a blow, as the blow comes fust, as soon shets up argymints, jest like wot Old Gladstin wants to do with Parlyment, thro' a-likin' to 'ave all the talk to 'isself, as 'adn't better go a-talkin' to Jumbo, as would give 'im as good as he brought in the way of jaw, cos he can 'old 'is own that way better than Gladstin.

As I've said afore, I shouldn't care to sail along with Jumbo, tho' he might be lashed like the cart-'orse as I've illuded to; not as I means with a whip, but a lot of ropes, as was twenty 'ands 'igh, as I don't know the difference between 'ands and feet myself, as it's singler they should measure 'orses and helefants by their 'ands and men and women by their feet, as must wary werry much, cos we knows there is parties as 'ave got reglar shoulder-of-mutton 'ands and beadle-crushers for feet, so can't all measure the same, not either in length nor yet breadth.

But as I were a-sayin', that cart 'orse took and sent 'is 'oof thro' the box as he were packed in, as 'adn't no led to cover 'im up, and as to Jumbo, in course, there aint no box in this world as

could shet 'im in, with 'is trunk and all packed inside.

No doubt Queen Wictorier would 'ave telegraphed to Jumbo, to say as she were sorry as he'd been put out of the way about goin' to Merryker, and as she wouldn't allow 'im for to be tampered with by a lot of Yankee Doodle rebels, as is wot 'er grandfather, Old King George, always would call 'em, to 'is dyin' day, as some says, he drove 'em into, by bein' that obstinate about their tea, as were foolishness, no doubt, but it's all for the best, as the sayin' is, cos they'd 'ave give us a deal of trouble; the same as them Colonials, as 'ad better be cut adrift, as'll be sure to throw us over, when we've served their turn, as is 'uman natur all over the world.

But as I were a-sayin', 'owever could Queen Wictorier 'ave time to think about Jumbo, them few days as she were up in town, wot with Buckin'em Pallis bein' that cold, with all the rooms shet up so long, and the chimbleys a-smokin' with the wind north-east, and Old Gladstin a-comin' worretin' 'er with 'is counsels, as he will 'old over all manner, as she don't want none of 'is advice, and wouldn't let 'im mention Bradlor's name, a-sayin', no doubt, as he aint fit for no decent woman to 'illude to, and then in goin' 'ome for to be fired at like that, as was nearly as bad as 'earin' Old Gladstin jaw; as I've 'eard say as she never will ask 'im to take a

cheer, as no doubt pertends to be that busy with 'er nettin', as she don't know as he aint got one, for I'm told she never looks up at 'em counsels, so in course don't know if he's a-settin' or a standin', cos if he were once to sit down, he'd stop there for ever a-jawin, thro' 'avin' brort a sanwich in 'is pocket, and a wiol full of sherry, as he'd take on the sly, behind 'is 'andkercher, a-knowin' as Queen Wictorier is too much the lady to watch any one under them circumstances.

In my opinion, and Brown says the same, as is a cool 'and to think over things, as it's a pity as they don't give that waggerbone a taste of the cat pretty 'ot, a idle good for nothink wretch. Cos if he were a loonytic, they didn't 'ort to hang 'im, like that poor wretch over in Horstrailier, as shot the Duke of Edinburrer, as was well beknown to be mad, as the Dook 'isself rote a letter to the Prime Minister, a-intreatin' as 'is miserable life mightn't be took, and if that there Prime Minister didn't keep that letter in 'is pocket, till the miserable creetur 'ad been 'anged, as no doubt the Dook aint forgot. In course, he weren't no gentleman, that minister, to act like that, but it aint fair by the Dook, as 'ave 'ad lots said agin 'im for not havin' saved the man's life, as in course he'd 'ave done, like a bird, with pleasure. Not as I 'olds with too much of that there mussy cry, no more don't Brown, and as to

parties a-talkin' about revenge, why all punishments is that in the long run.

Talkin' of revenge, I should advise Old Barnum to look out the fust time as Jumbo ketches sight on 'im, as it is well bekknown as helefants marks them as they don't fancy, and takes wiolent dislikes to some parties, as is often werry short-tempered, and wot puzzles me is, 'owever they're goin' to feed Jumbo on the woyage, cos if he'll eat buns by the thousand every day, let alone oranges, and two trusses of 'ay, 'owever is 'is perwishuns to 'old out, and if he were to get wiolent on the woyage, they couldn't stop the wessel and land 'im on anythink but a icebug, as the cold on would, no doubt, strike to 'is lungs, let alone topplin over with 'is wait, cos we all knows as icebugs is slippery things, tho' no doubt, he'd make friends with the whales, as would show 'im all their 'aunts, as he could live on till the ice broke up, as he could walk across to Greenland, cos we all knows it would bear 'im in them climates up agin the North Pole, as them white bears is a-climbin' up constant, as wouldn't get on partikler well with Jumbo, thro' both bein' that parshul to buns, as they might fall out over, as would be orkard for the bear as come a cropper off the pole, with Jumbo a-waitin' for to give 'im a nasty one with 'is trunk, at the bottom.

Cos tho' birds in their little nests agrees, I don't

think if all the hanimals was let loose in the Jew-logical Gardins they'd get on as well as they did in Nore's Ark, not but wot that must 'ave been dreadful confusion, if you may judge by them copies on it, as is give to children, as I well remembers Lady Wittles a-buyin' one for 'er grandson, as stood three feet from the ground, as the hanimals 'ad all got their nat'ral skins on, as made 'em look like life for nat'ralness.

No Wonder Queen Victोरier wants to get away from Old Gladstin's everlasting jaw, and is a-goin' over to Italy, as I've been to myself, tho' in course she won't to Rome, for fear as she were to run agin the Pope, as they won't let 'er 'ave no communication with, tho' in course she'd bow to 'im passin', like a lady, thro' 'er bein' 'ead of the Church in England, where some wants 'er to meet the Pope, even if it were only 'arf way, tho' some says as two 'eads wouldn't be better than one, as the sayin' is.

I can't 'elp a-feelin' as somethink will go 'rong over Jumbo bein' took to Merryker, tho' in course they're right in sayin' if he were to turn savidge and break loose he'd 'ave plenty of room over there to run wild in, as might get in Texas among all the other runaways, and wouldn't never be cort any more than them other rogues as cuts away from their creditors, not as I considers it's any credit to them as sold, nor yet to them as bought, Jumbo,

as didn't ort to be orked about like a broken-'need 'orse, as is subjie to spavins, or got the yaller glanders, as 'uman bein's 'ave been known to ketch and die on, as I 'eard one party as never would ride in a 'ansom cab for fear as he might ketch 'em thro' the 'orse a-throwin' up 'is 'ead with a snort, as the wind might carry back, thro' bein' a-'ead, as in course you faces in a open vehicle, as is wot I always dreads on a helefant's back, as might throw up 'is trunk without thinkin', and fetch you that back-'ander as would settle your 'ash.

It were on that Sunday evenin' as we'd been to the Jewlogical Gardins, when lingerin' over tea, atween the lights, as I enjoys now as the days is drorin out like tellyscopes, as the sayin' is, as Jumbo come up agin, with the last 'arf cup, thro' Miss Pilkinton a-askin' me 'ow many I'd see in Afriker.

I says, "None at all."

She says, "'Ow sing'ler, as is all over the place."

I says, "Not at all, thro' it's bein' well bekknown to them as knows joggraffy, as the Cape of Good 'Ope aint the land of Egyp', as is where hippypotumusses and rinoscerosses comes from along with crockerdiles, as is all related, and I've 'eard say lives in them swamps, as agrees with their constitushuns, thro' 'avin' 'ides, as tho' waterproof, is apt to dry up in the sun, as is wonderful tuf, and like

the porpus for shoes, partikler the soles, as I've knowed a party as 'ad a pair as lasted for ever, without ever 'avin' fresh ones, and these was second-'and, as you might stand up to your waist in water by the 'our together, and never 'ave wet feet, as 'ave been the ends of a good many, as I've 'eard was the death of Queen Wictorier's own father, as were Dook of Kent, and little thought, when playin' with 'er with 'is wet feet, as he were a-nussin' of a unborn Queen, as give 'im a chill as struck in.

I 'ave 'eard say as helefants' feet is delicious eatin' when well soaked, and I know a party as always said as porpus 'ide 'ad saved 'is life in shipwreck, as escaped in a boat with no purwishuns and all died of starvation but 'im, as laid down in the bottom and gnawed is own sole for days, as 'adn't got the feller thro' 'avin' lost it in gettin' down the side of the wessel as they bolted away from on the quiet, as is the only way to get off a wreck : cos if the others knows your little game at levantin', why they all makes a rush and upsets boat and hevery-think else, along with your plans.

Miss Pilkinton she's werry touchey over 'er joggraffy, so she up and says as she knowed as there was wild helefants in South Afriker. "Which nobody can deny," I says; "and that wild too as nobody dursnt go near 'em, as goverment don't allow no-

body to shoot for pleasure, as may spile sport but makes it better for helefants."

"I dare say Jumbo 'ave 'eard of that," I says.

"Go on with your rubbish," says Brown.

I says, "Don't jeer, Mr. Brown, for 'is keeper told me to-day as that hanimal knowed a deal more than a many Christshuns, and would stand all attention by the 'our together a-eatin' of 'is 'ay and flappin' 'is ears while 'im and another keeper read the paper in turns to one another of a mornin' as was werry careful never to read any think before Jumbo about 'im bein' sold to go to Merryker, as he thinks now it 'ad been better to 'ave told 'im indirect like that thro' bein' that reasonable as he'd 'ave went like a lamb."

"Turn it up, mother," says Brown, "you wasn't sich a fool as to believe that yarn."

I says, "You may call it a yarn, Mr. Brown, but it aint more wonderful than wot I've 'ad read to me in a book, as was called 'Sandflour and Mertle,' as Lady Wittles give 'er youngest, when I was a-livin' there, as did used to read it out loud to me in the nursery, afore he went to school, not but wot helefants the same as everythink else is werry much changed since them days afore them Colonies was thort on, as is now that civilized as you wouldn't never believe you was out of England in landin' at a place in Africa, as they calls East London, as it's

as much as your life's worth to try and get ashore. As they had to land you like cargo with a crane and a basket, and the sea a-dashin' over you like mad, but 'ardly ever an accident, and the people that kind when you gets ashore with a werry nice 'otel, as I were glad to get to, and found as the parties as kep' it was 'ighly respectable and that civil in their ways, as give me a good cup of coffee, and a nice bit of steak, and fried taters, as I did enjoy arter I'd been and 'ad a reglar change, as seems to give any-one new life a-comin' from sea, the same as poor Mrs. Macartney, as come all the way from India on short allowance, with only 'arf a pint of water a day for weeks for washin' and everythink, as was in the good old times as they calls 'em, when they didn't know nothink about steam-boats nor filterin' sea water nor makin' soap as you can wash in the sea with."

When we 'ad our bit of wittles we started off for a walk, but soon come back, and glad to get to bed early, as the drop of somethink 'ot as Brown brought me up the last thing saved me from a severe cold, thro' a feelin' pains in my limbs a-comin' on already, as in course am not so young as I was, and feels bein' knocked about, whether by sea or by land, and couldn't 'elp a-thinkin' afore I fell asleep, as we're a-livin' in a wonderful hage, as takes you everywhere in no time, and where it's

all to end I can't think, as goin' to Margate were thought a sea woyage when my dear mother were a gal ; and as to goin' over to France, why, parties didn't dare to, as were as much as their lives was wuth, thro' Bonyparty a-pouncin' on 'em as prisoners for life, a waggerbone as pretty nigh drove Matilda Smith out of 'er mind, poor thing, as was reglar engaged to a party in the name of Armstrong, as give 'isself out for a widderer, with the day fixed, thro' 'is wife 'avin' been took prisoner by the French aboard of a wessel a-comin' 'ome from India, as she'd been the woyage out and 'ome with a lady and 'er infant, as was carried into Brest, as they calls it, and kep' there till they nearly all died, partikler Mrs. Armstrong, over three years, as I well remembers 'er myself.

The night afore Armstrong were to make poor Matilda 'is wife, up drove a 'ackney coach, as proved to be 'is lawful wife come over from France, as she'd been and escaped from, dressed up like a common sailor, thro' bein' a fine woman, and, bless your 'art, that strong and 'ealthy as she outlived 'im many a year, thro' never 'avin' died in prison like the rest, as was dreadful ill-treated.

So that's one reason why I never could a-bear Bonyparty, arter my dear mother took me with 'er to see poor Matilda, as were in Common Garden workus, and took 'er a bit of tea and sugar, poor

soul, tho' quite crazy, but always a bad temper, and I 'ave 'eard parties say as Armstrong 'ad a werry narrer escape, jest the same as 'is good lady.

I must say as I never do feel quite 'appy in bein' abroad, for fear of one of them riverlutions a-breakin' out, as they might do any minnit, the same as Paris, as in course them Communes wasn't 'arf put down, and as I said 'ave bust out agin when least expected, as 'ill never rest till they've murdered everyone, the wretches! the same as that waggerbone of a Grabidaldi, as 'ave been a-ritin' of 'is letters abusin' everybody, and wantin' to see the Pope massacred, as 'ates all religion in course, and wants 'angin' to be done away with, as is werry natral on 'is part, but 'ad better look out, or may get 'is desserts some day yet before he dies.

But I says to Miss Pilkinton as I 'eard say as there did used to be wild beasts all over Africker, and there is wild helefants close by the next place as we stopped at, next to East London, as is named arter Queen Lizzybeth.

Says Miss Pilkinton, "Why, she were dead afore it were ever 'eard on."

I says, "That don't matter, cos I said it were named arter 'er; if I'd said afore 'er, you might 'ave took me up that short; but," I says, "if you goes to Port Lizzybeth, and then on by rail, you'll come to the helefant country thro' the hostriches,

as 'ides their 'eads along with their heggs in the sand, and is nat'rally in a fright, for fear as the helefant might tread on 'em unawares; cos I don't believe as the helefant is one to bear no mallis agin a hostrich's hegg, as is a 'armless thing, no doubt. So that's all as I knows about helefants in Africker."

Miss Pilkinton she says as they always was there, as there were a famous party as were called Cannibal, as come all the way from Afriker to Rome, all over the Halps, on helefants, to break down the mountings.

"Ah!" I says, "I dare say; but that aint nothing to do with Jumbo, as they do say may live to be as old as two sentries, as wouldn't be nothink remarkable in the way of hages, cos in general they picks out young men for that work as would knock a old sojer up, let alone 'im fallin' asleep on 'is post, as he'd nat'ral lean agin for to rest 'im."

I must say as I do 'ope, as if he must go, as Jumbo will listen to reason, as I feels as I should like to 'ave talked to 'im about thro' 'avin' all that sense in 'is 'ead, and it aint no use in a-resistin' when once they gets 'im aboard the boat, cos if he did get loose, they'd shet 'im up in an ion compart-mint, jest as if he was a fire broke out, and let the steam 'ose be turned on 'im, as would soon cook 'is goose in no time, tho' they'd 'ave to sink the vessel

to get 'is carcuss out, as they couldn't leave there to putrify near the injin-room, nor yet down among the coals, like a stowaway, as is often drove to it thro' distress, as wants to hemigrate, as is 'ow they might circumwent Jumbo, a-makin' believe as they was a-goin' to take 'im to 'is Fatherland, as is Injier, as he'd like to go to, like them Germans, as plays the bands about the streets, as did ought to be sent 'ome, but won't go, drat 'em ! as long as they makes money with their beastly row all over the place, enuf to distract any one, partikler in sickness, as you can't lay down straw for to smother, as would serve 'em right, tho' they may all be noblemen when at 'ome, as I've 'eard say, and only a-seein' the world in cog, as the sayin' is, and don't want to be knowed ; the same as Queen Wictorier a-goin' abroad on the quiet, as didn't ort to let 'em know where she was a-goin' to, nor yet 'er address, so as they couldn't be a-pesterin' 'er with letters, nor yet botherin' 'er 'ead with wires in 'er ears constant, as it is 'ard to think as she can't get out of a railway into 'er carridge without being fired at like a field of battle ; and wotever all them sojers was about I can't think, and them railway porters, to let anyone get that close to 'er, as if it 'ad been one of them 'and-grenades, like the Hemperor of Roosher, why, she'd 'ave been picked off at that distance, and found on the top of the Round

Tower or the middle of the Long Walk, as I'd flog that waggerbone up and down for a 'our, mad or not, as did ort to be done with Bradlor and all 'is lot, as is all tarred with the same brush, as the sayin' is.

But, as I says, bother pollytics, as Parlyment did ort to take up Jumbo, as I'm glad to 'ear as they've been and throwed into Chancery, as I said I were sure as he felt 'appy in 'is mind when we see 'im that afternoon, as certingly Sunday is not a day of rest for 'im, tho' I were disappointed, as nobody, not even children, wasn't allowed to ride on 'is back, not as I should 'ave tried myself, for I shan't never forget last summer, jest as me and Brown got 'ome from round the world as we went, leastways, me and Mrs. Padwick went alone, and it's a mussy as I'm alive to tell the tale, not as that noble beast meant any 'arm, as were my own fault. I did say I wouldn't never get on a helefant no more, arter that time, as I pretty nigh come to an untimely hend off that helefant's back at that Jardang of Climination, in Paris, as we all set in a row, back to back, as the French calls "dosey do," as made me feel drowsy, and jest a-goin' to fall off. Young Smith, as were along with us, and always a-playin' tricks off on 'is mother, as was a-settin' next to me on that "'owdah," as is Injin for a helefant's saddle, and

the way as that helefant wobbled, was wuss than sea-sickness, and I were wishin' of myself on terris firmer, as is my real natif helefant arter all said and done, up come young Smith and says to 'is mother, "I do believe as they're a-goin' to let the lions out."

"Wot," I says, and up I jumps.

"Keep your seat, my good woman," says a party by the side on me.

I says, "I shan't," not bein' a good woman to sit 'ere to be dewoured by a lion, as will be sure to make fust for the helefant, cos they never touches man till they've polished off all the beasts, and a helefant would be pretty pickin's for a lion, as don't care about 'uman bein's, any more than a tiger, as loses their skins thro' bein' man-eaters. Well, jest then I see a crowd a-comin', with a lot of hanimals in the middle, comin' straight at us, so I gives a spring forard, a-'ollerin', "Here they are," into young Smith's arms, as tried to ketch me, and reglar flattened 'im, a-pullin' of 'is mother and the gent a-settin' the other side on me, arter me, so we all come on to 'im, more or less. Mrs. Smith, she were on 'er legs in a minit, and 'owled at me, a-sayin', "Get up, you're a-squashin' my boy." But bless your 'art, that boy as were twenty, he give a spring as sent me a-rollin' over on to the other gent, as used langwidge as aint, I considers, "camilfoe," as the French says, jest as the crowd

come up along with a lot of ostriches, as is as 'eavy as a 'orse, as I only jest missed by crawlin' on all fours on one side, and then the surjon de ville come up along with the keepers, as called me "a succary wash," as is somethink rude in French, cos young Smith said as he couldn't say it in English, and I knows is insults, thro' 'avin' 'eard it in Brussels, as is where they all talks too free, and is the place I've 'eard say to pick up bad French; as me and Brown wisited many a year ago, where they makes lovely lace, as Lady Wittles did used to wear, in goin' to the Drorin' Room, as Queen Wictorier 'erself might be proud on, and I've been used to 'ear on always, thro' my dear mother a-gettin' up Brussels lace quite equal to new, as she always did with 'er own 'ands, as in course she understood, thro' 'avin' a lovely wail on 'erself, as was real, and come down to me, as I were proud on, as were stole off a green plot in front of the 'ouse, when I was a-stoppin' one time down with Liza, as would cover your bonnet, crown and all, when throwed back, and reached nearly to your knees a-'angin' down in front.

As to that Mrs. Pilcher, as lived next door to Liza, a-sayin' it were tramps as took it, I wouldn't believe 'er not on 'er Bible oath, as could swear to the pattern, tho' two year 'ad gone by, and she'd 'ad it died black and made into a cape for 'er

scraggy shoulders, as she 'ad the impidence to bring up to town and to wear it that evenin' when she drunk tea along with Mrs. Pulman, close agin the Edgware Road, thro' bein' up for the Cattle Show, as was 'er proper place, and says to me, jest atween the lights, "You're a-lookin' at my black lace square, Mrs. Brown, as is always considered a beauty, and belonged to my grandmother."

I says, "Were your grandmother's name Walker?"

She says, "No; Downey."

"Oh!" I says, "she must 'ave been precious downy to 'ave left you that for a square, as it's aperient is twice as long as its wide, and were made out of a wail, I'll take my davy, as the sayin' is."

She says, "Oh, dear no; nothink of the sort."

"Why," I says, "none of your nonsense; why, 'ere's the place where it 'ave been turned down for the string to be run thro', and in course as you've been and 'ad it dyed, and shameful bad too," for it were as brown as a berry.

She says, "Never dyed to my knowledge."

I says, "I wonder you aint afeard of bein' struck so, to set there a-tellin' them lies, when I knows it's my own verrry identical white wail as I put out to bleach down at your place, and were missin' when the thunder-storm were over that

afternoon, as were the fust time Liza set up to tea arter Emma were born."

That woman she jumps up, and says to Mrs. Pulman, a-comin' in with the tea-pot, "Where's my bonnet, I'm a-goin' at once, as ever I should 'ave lived to 'ave been called a thief to my face, as would 'ave make my own father turn in 'is grave, as were reglar to 'is church, thro' bein' parish clerk over sixty years, and did 'is duty to the last, for he 'ad two weddin's and a christenin' the day as he died, and never enjoyed 'is supper, as were fried tripe, more in 'is life, and jest on eighty-six, with every tooth in 'is 'ead, and could say amen without spectacles to the last."

There wasn't no gettin' a word in hedgeways, as the sayin' is, for that woman's clack, as kep' jawin' for ever so long, till at last when obligated to take 'er breath, I says, "Who calls you a thief?"

She says, "Why, you do."

I says, "Never; I only said as that were like my Brussels lace wail dyed black."

"Why," she says, "it's 'Oniton, as is where my mother come from, in Devonshire."

Well, Mrs. Padwick and Mrs. Pulman both said it were 'Oniton, as aint Brussels, so I 'ad to beg 'er pardin thro' a-knowin' as mine were Brussels, thro' a-rememberin' the place, 'cos of the sprouts as 'ave

come in only jest like yesterday, tho' my mother's wail were brought over jest arter the battle of Waterloo, and belonged to an officer's lady, as lodged near Cheyney Walk, Chelsea, with 'er 'usban on 'arf pay, as my mother washed for, and went off in 'er debt, but were 'onerable at bottom, for she sent that werry wail in a parcel, and a pretty wrote note, a-sayin' as she thought it would cover the debt, as is why my mother always valued it for showin' as there is 'onesty in the world, tho' you only gets 'arf pay, as is the best policy, as the say-in' is.

So I've never forgot Brussels, and never shall, and were quite pleased in goin' on there from Malleens, as is also one of them lace places like Bedford, where the gals all grows out thro' a-settin' at it too close, the same as straw plattin' as many considers werry un'olesome; but law, for that matter, everythink as you sticks to too close is bad for you, but wotever are parties to do as is obligated to work, and can't afford to throw it up and set idle when not in the humour for it.

That arternoon as me and Mrs. Padwick went to see Jumbo, I felt like a gal, and 'ad a light musling on along with my black silk jacket, as is all bugles back and front, and a lovely fit like wax, tho' tight under the harms.

We certingly did enjoy ourselves, and Mrs.

Padwick she'd got 'er little grandchild with 'er, as I must say I did not like 'avin' along with us, as I could not say 'er nay, tho' there's no pleasure in takin' out children, escept you gives all your time to them, as is all werry well once in a way for a treat, but no pleasure to their elders.

I would not 'ave got on Jumbo's back for the world, and so I said, only that little gal wouldn't get on 'im without 'er grandma a-comin' too.

So Mrs. Padwick she says to me, "That's a dear soul, do come, and the child can set atween us."

I can't say as I cared for doin' of it, for that child required a 'ankercher constant, and were a-suckin' of a oringe all down 'er, with 'er fingers all clammy with lollypops all the time, as I didn't want to 'ave smeared all over my new silk jacket.

I didn't want to make myself unpleasant to a old friend, so I agrees, and up I gets on that place a-waitin' for Jumbo to come back, as he did arter a bit, and seemed glad for to get them children off 'is back, cos in course thro' bein' that sagashus he likes to 'ear them as is growed up talk, and not a parcel of children a-sniggerin' and a-jabberin' all a-top of 'is back.

So we all gets on 'im, and there was parties a-jeerin' and alludin' to me, and one says, "She'll

break 'is back ; put a prop under 'im," and all manner like that, as shows their ignorance, as I jest give 'em one of my looks, and off we goes ; and when we got near that tunnel, as that sensible brute always crouches down under, the same as Christ-shuns as 'ave got any sense in their 'eads ducks 'em under a arch, a party says to me as he didn't believe as Jumbo were ten feet 'igh.

I says, "Go along with you."

"Why," I says, "look at the tunnel as he can't get thro' without duckin'."

"Oh!" he says, "that's only 'is 'abit. Why," he says, "he's near up to the top on it, as I could touch a-standin' up with my umbreller."

I says, "No, you couldn't ; no more I couldn't do that ;" and up I gets and 'olds up my umbreller jest to see, as come a crash agin the top of the tunnel and sent me a-flyin' off ; and it's a mussy as I didn't pull the little girl arter me, as screamed out and ketch 'old on me by my gownd, as she tore slap away from my waist.

There was a filliloo, the keepers all a-rushin' at me, a-sayin' as they'd give me in charge, and as I'd frightened the helefant, as if he begun to roar would wake all the other beasts and set 'em a-'owlin', as there would be no peace for miles round.

So I picks myself up and goes to the lady's

room, as there wasn't no great 'arm done, cos luckily my 'principal 'ook and eye 'ad only give way, as is 'ow I likes to fasten things by, as may be old-fashioned, but is soon set right, as it were, by the party as looks arter the ladies, and as I'd broke my fall agin the wall and the keeper I wasn't much shook, and soon got back in the Gardins and gets some buns and things for Jumbo to go and make friends; but law, there wasn't no occasun, for he'd forgot all about it, and were a-bein' fed by every one quite afferble. I give 'im two or three buns, and throwed the bag away, not a-thinkin' no more about it, and were a-tryin' along with Mrs. Padwick to persuade her little grandchild for to give Jumbo a oringe. So I jest turns my back to 'im and stoops down to the child, when all on a sudden I felt myself seized from behind, as lifted me off my feet, and dropped me quite gentle. I didn't scream nor nothink to erritate the creetur, and was on my feet agin in a instant, with parties all a-grinnin', and Jumbo a shakin' 'arf my jacket in the hair, as the keeper took from 'im and shied at me, a-sayin' as I were old enuf to know better than play tricks with a helefant. I says, "Me play tricks with 'im, a dear creetur, I wouldn't for the world."

Then he says, "Why did you put that bun bag in your back pocket, with nothink but nutshells in it."

I says, "Never! I throwed the bag away."

"Well then," he says, "some fool did, as picked it up and 'ave ruffled 'is temper; so you'd better not let 'im ketch sight of you no more, or he might give you a nasty one."

"Well," I says, "I do call that rough on me, as 'ave 'ad my jacket spilte, and all thro' others' foolishness, as you might esplain to that noble hanimal."

He says, "'Ow am I to make 'im understand?"

"Why," I says, "easy enuf, as might whisper 'im the same as they do the bees when their masters dies, and if a bee can 'ear a whisper as 'ave got no ears aperient to the naked eye, surely a helefant's can take in anythink, tho' pre'aps they 'ear thro' their trunks, the same as some hanimals I've heard say will breathe thro' their backs, as must be the hostrich, with 'is 'ead in the sand, as is 'ow they 'ides theirselves and their heggs, as I see plenty on over in Afriker, as a friend of ours were wot they calls a hostrich farmer, as some of the heggs was worth a many pounds, as have been knowed to be dropped by accident in bein' showed to wisitors, and sometimes cracked thro' spite, as if made into a omlit, is enuf for a 'arty meal. There was a party in them Gardins as said as he knowed all about helefants, thro' bein' in Injier

when quite a boy, as 'is father 'ad served there quite young under the Dook of Wellington."

I says, "Oh! indeed, not a-knowin' as the Dook 'ad ever been in Injier, tho' I well remembers as Tipper Saib were there, and 'ave seen a picter at Lady Wittles of 'is two little boys as 'ad come on helefants to see King George."

"Oh!" says the party, "nothink of the sort, King George weren't never in Injier tho' the Dook was."

I says, "No doubt, as you says so," tho' I never see no place in Injier when I were there where he fought a battle the same as Waterloo, as I've been to myself on the top of a coach and four, as starts from Brussels every mornin', as is a nice place, and when we was there last it were soon arter them Germans 'ad been a-beseechin' Paris to give up to them as wouldn't till they was pretty nigh starved and bombarded to ashes, as I see a lovely picter on, as made Brussels that gay all that winter thro' lots of French bein' there as 'ad been drove out of their 'omes, so come to Brussels by thousan's a-livin' there like fightin' cocks, poor fellers, tho' I did 'ear a party jeer at 'em a-sayin' as they took care to keep out of France, thro' bein' that wounded in their moral feelin's about France bein' so pitched into, tho' in course they wasn't a-goin' to be a-fightin' and a-starvin' in Paris when they could get

away and come and live in luxury in Brussels, or even in London, but bein' French couldn't 'elp a-feelin' wot they called "blessayed," for their country, as is werry natral; and makes everyone respect 'em for their feelin's except the Beljuns, as did seem to 'ave a awful down on 'em and don't seem to pity 'em a bit.

I must say as it's a pity as the French will talk so big of wot they're a-goin' to do to them Germans in revenge, and sayin' as they wasn't conkered fair; cos they may believe that themselves, but won't easily persuade nobody else on it.

In course, as I were a-sayin', we 'ad to go and see the Battle of Waterloo as there's coaches starts for hevery mornin' out of Brussels, a-drivin' thro' the streets and a-blowin' their 'orns all over the place.

I didn't care much about it myself for I'd see it twice when a gal at Ashley's, where the party as acted Old Boney were so like 'im as there was a-many as thought he must be the man turned up agin if they 'adn't knowed that he were dead and berried over in Senteleener, between two weepin' willers and a sentry-box, as I've see a picter on myself, as were 'is shadder a-lookin' at 'is grave as much as to say, a pretty fool I've been and made of myself, as is a lesson to us all as pride shall 'ave a fall, as the sayin' is.

The same as Mrs. Gliddins, many years ago, as would take the box-seat on the Woolich coach, agoin' to a weddin', and got pitched off thro' the wheel a-ketchin' agin the turnpike-gate in the Old Kent Road, and would 'ave been killed on the spot but for a cart of grains as she pitched on to, but that messed as she were obligated for to give up the weddin' and set by the kitchen fire in the public-'ouse, as they carried 'er into, in the landlady's night things, till they could dry 'er own, and go 'ome in the dusk of the evenin', by the Greenwich coach, as set 'er down at the "Ship," Cherrin' Cross, as aint much of a walk to Castle Street, Leicester Square, where they was a lodgin', thro' 'im bein' a silver-chaser in a good way of busyness ; but as I were a-sayin', Waterloo for ever, as we went along on that coach, tho' never one to care about battles and wars, and always thinks as Dr. Wot's 'is name were right in sayin' as we didn't ought to let our angry pashuns rise, like dogs as delights to bark and bite, not but wot I've knowed dogs myself as 'adn't no angry pashuns, and wouldn't 'ave lifted their 'ands, as the sayin' is, not agin a hinfant from the month, and give up a bone without a growl.

But as to battles, wot makes me so wild over 'em, in a gen'ral way, is that them as suffers most from 'em gets least by 'em ; and as I were a-sayin',

wotever do them poor creeturs care, as 'ave got their bits of 'omes destroyed all over the place, who is King, or who isn't, and don't want to 'ave their bit of land all tore to bits, with the 'ouse burnt, with their wives and children murdered, or wuss, and everythink carried off, the same as they was in France, so as that ugly old King of Proosher might call 'isself a Seizer, in actin' like a cut-throat robber, as looks a kind old man; and 'is son, that there Crown Prince, don't look like a party as would do anybody no 'rong, as in course Queen Wictorier wouldn't allow, thro' bein' 'is mother-in-law, tho' too much the lady for to interfere with a married dorter, as is a gran'-mother now 'erself, as shows the flights of time, tho' we aint all a-goin' to live to be as old as Jumbo, as might be a great-great-gran'father over and over agin for that matter, and in course helefants don't rain over us like crown 'eads, tho' I've see a picter on 'im in a crown; and as to kings bein' murd'ers for goin' to war, I'm sure some of them Salvation Army parties would reglar bully you if they was strong enuf, as don't look no better than a lot of tyrants in their fottygrafts, a-rushin' about all the world over.

Not but wot it were right as that Old Boney should be put down at Waterloo, as were nothink better than a robber 'isself, and did ought to 'ave been

'ung, and so he would 'ave been, no doubt, but for runnin' away and gettin' aboard the "Billyruffon," as I knowed a old gentleman well, as were a-livin' in Devonshire, and 'ad a post-shay and four to go over to Plymouth, as went out in a opin boat to look at 'im, as stood at the wessel side and said as he throwed 'isself on the mercy of the court, so in course George the Fourth, as were the Prince Regent, couldn't 'ang 'im in chains off Greenwich arter that; tho' Lord Nelson would 'ave done it with pleasure, to the yarm arm, like Paul Jones, the pirate, or Admiral Byng, in the Mutiny at the Nore, as some says were not 'is fault any more than the Mutiny of the Bounty, as all got away on a unhin-'abited island, in the name of Adams, and lived werry proper lives, till found by a ship's crew, as in course werry soon made 'em like the rest of the world, as they'd been so long out on, as they'd forgot its wicked ways, yet sent to Norfolk Island arter all.

But as I were a-sayin' outside that coach as we were a-gcin' over to Waterloo in, I was glad as Old Boney were beaten, and as we did ought give three cheers for the Dook of Wellington, as soon as ever I see the spot as he were a-settin' on when he jumps up all on a suddin a-hollerin' "Up, Guards, and at 'em!" and away they all went, with 'im at their 'ead, and sent the French a-flyin' like dust afore

the wind, as the sayin' is, over the 'ills and far away, with the Prooshins arter 'em like mad, as would 'ave chased 'em back into Paris, only Old Blucher were too wide awake for that, and give a blow with 'is 'orn as brought 'em back, or there wouldn't 'ave been a single Frenchman left alive to tell the tale.

There were a Merrykin outside that coach as took me up werry sharp, a-sayin' as Bonyparty did ought to 'ave won the day, and as Ingland treated 'im shameful.

"Ah!" I says, "that's your opinion, but I thinks different."

"Oh!" he says, "all people of enlightened views regrets 'is fate."

I says, "Do they? Oh, indeed! No doubt, cos we all knows as enlightened views means rob your neighbour, break your word, put down religion, turn off your wife, and do jest as you likes about supportin' your children; turn everythink as is good into redicule, despise your parents, and then you've got enlightened views."

"Ah!" he says, "you're too old to learn true wisdom."

"Yes," I says, "I thank goodness I am, if wisdom means sich ways as them."

He says, "It's all prejudice, thro' bein' born Inglish."

I says, "I dussay you thinks so ; but," I says, "I don't want no words ; you've got your opinion jest as I've got mine, as I means to stick to." So I says, "Let's talk about somethink else ;" for I were a-gettin' that warm thro' the sun and the dust as I were afraid I might get on Merryker and tread on 'is toes.

That coach rattled along, but nothink like an English stage-coach, as did used to be a glorious sight, partikler the mails on the King's birthday, as was done away with when the railways come in.

Wotever made them go all that way for to fight that battle for, I can't think, cos in course the Battle of Waterloo weren't like a prize-fight, as is bound to come off somewheres out of the way, for fear of the perlice bein' down on 'em ; and I only wish as there was a perlice everywhere to be down on them as is fightin' battles all over the world, and stop 'em, as is a deal wuss than any prize-fight, I'm sure.

For my part, I can't see nothink in Waterloo for to look at, as must be a deal changed now arter all these years, as makes me feel a-gettin' on, when I considers as I've 'eard my dear mother say I'd cut my four fust teeth the werry day as the news on it arrived, as were fought on a Sunday, in the pourin' wet, and the guns was 'eard in Ingland, and some say the news on it got to London that

werry same night, as couldn't 'ave been letters, and not even with pigeons, tho' they always flies straight 'ome.

I were a-sayin' to a young lady as we was a-lookin' at the monyment on the 'ill, as that there lion were put up as a warnin' to the French, never to do it no more, but law, some parties won't never be warned nor advised neither, the same as Mrs. Willars, as I told 'er as that shabby gownd wouldn't never bear washin' in 'ot water, as took and tried it, and left every bit of the colour at the bottom of the tub, and come out a sandy rag.

A good many Merrykin parties showed their hignorance over that battle, a-sayin' as Bonyparty did win the day, and as it were thro' the English, as wouldn't give up, tho' they was beat, that they give out as the French was conkered, as were false.

But I didn't make no anser, cos parties only does it to aggravate werry often, and as I'd brought some sandwiches and a little somethink with me, I walks to that monyment and set down near it on a stump of a tree, to enjoy my wittles.

I'd been asked for to buy them old bullets and things, as in course is all rubbish, to say as they was at that battle, arter all these years.

Well, I set a-thinkin' and a-thinkin' till I seemed for to see the battle all round me, and was in a reglar fright, for I see the sojers, and 'eard the

guns, with trumpets a-blowin' and then come a rushin' noise like, and there was the bullets all a-flyin' about.

I was a-thinkin' wot a fool I were to 'ave left my umbreller in the coach, as brought us, as might 'ave been a little pertection. When I 'eard a tremenjous bang, as were like thousands of cannons a-goin' off, and the bullets a-rattlin' on my bonnet, and the trumpets a-blowin' in my ear.

So I jumps up and seizes a gun as were layin' by my side, and give a rush at a Frenchman as were blowin' a 'orn in my face, and over we both went together.

Law, when I come to myself, I were a-settin' on the ground, drenched to the skin, and my umbreller beside me, and two young parties with a 'orn in their 'ands, fit to die with larfin', a-standin' in front of me, one a-tryin' to rub down the other as I'd upset.

I says, "For mussy sake, 'elp me on to my legs."

They did arter a bit, and then says, "You must be a good sleeper."

I says, "Wot do you mean?"

"Why," they says, "you slep all thro' the storm, and we couldn't wake you a-blowin' the 'orns, for the coach is a-goin' to start, so me and this young man wolunteered to come and wake you up,

and you took and charged us with your umbreller, like the Dook of Wellington 'isself come to life agin."

I says, "I think you might 'ave woke me up sooner, and not let me get drenched like this."

One on 'em says, "Bless you, it come down all of a sudden, with only two claps of thunder, as seemed to bust the clouds."

I says, "In course that's wot thunder is, any fool knows; but," I says, "I shall get my death a-goin' 'ome like this."

They says, "Go inside."

I says, "That I will not, for goin' in the hopen hair will dry me soonest;" and so it did, for by the time we got back to Brussels I were as dry as a bone, as the sayin' is, and never felt no bad effects on it, and 'ave 'eard say as a thunder shower don't do you no 'arm, thro' the lightnin' a-warmin' you, I suppose; not as it's a thing I should run into myself any more than a pitch battle.

Waterloo is a werry interestin' place, no doubt, tho' in course it's a sore subjic to the French, and not a word as I would use afore 'em, as always called it the bottom of Regent Street to Mr. Willyboo, as were French, and tho' he lived all 'is life in London never would go over Waterloo Bridge, nor yet praise that there noble statty of the Duke of Wellington at 'Igh Park Corner.

I always considers as it's lucky they turned the 'orse's tail away from the 'Ospital, as might give many a poor creetur a dreadful turn a-lookin' out of the winder in the night, to see that there thing a-lookin' in at 'em like a sceptre on 'orseback, as the sayin' is.

I were glad for to get back to Brussels, as we was goin' to leave the next day, and did used to be a werry retired place, as parties from England come to live in, as 'ad outrun the constable at 'ome, as the sayin' is, and was out at elbers; and I knowed one party many years ago as come 'ere for to get married to a diworced woman a-thinkin' for to make it all square thro' it not bein' allowed in them days, but were reglar sold, for no respectable parties wouldn't 'ave nothink to say to 'em.

We was a-stoppin' at a nice 'otel, not one of your big flary places, but a quiet sort of a 'ouse, where they took you in and did for you, as the sayin' is, for about eight shillin's a day, not includin' of your wine nor beer.

They give us werry good coffee in the mornin', tho' I can't say as I thought much of their tea, as I tried a cup on one night, and if I'd 'ad my heyes shet shouldn't never 'ave guessed not in a 'undred years wot I were a-drinkin' of, but that in course ain't their faults, as Beljuns don't drink it, as no doubt will come to it some day when they're

better edicated, as it's edication, arter all, as brings any one to tea, cos in course nobody wouldn't 'ave thought of tea in a state of natur, tho' I dare say tea were fust found like baccy by chewin' of it, not as ever I 'eard of any one a-makin' tea of baccy except old Mrs. Malins, as biled down two ounces and washed the dog in it, as she said were a good thing for fleas, as it may be, but I'm sure that poor dog never 'eld up 'is 'ead agin, and in my opinion got the baccy into 'is constitution thro' 'is paws, poor thing, as in course was opened with standin' in all that 'ot water so long.

Beljum's the place for churches, as is werry grand, and plays the orgins most beautiful, and lovely paintin's all about, and no doubt the Beljuns is werry good sort of people, but they aint wot I calls nice in their 'abits about the place any more than Niggers, as is all owin' to their broughtin's up, as in my opinion you did ought to be werry partikler with young people's ways, as is all apt to be careless and slovenly.

I must say as Beljum pavements is enuf to drive you mad and sprain your ancle at every step, and I'm sure I should be drove to wooden shoes if I lived there, tho' a good many walks about in carpet slippers.

It seemed quite nat'ral to see our landlady go to market with a sort of a tin pail as she brings

things 'ome in, and never did see finer cabbidge, tho' the pertaters runs small in a genral way; she told me 'er children as they dewour by bushels, and seldom gets a bit of meat from week's end to week's end, as she don't consider 'olesome for 'em, in a 'ot climate, as is jest like the Irish, tho' not near sich a 'ansom lot, nor sich fine men.

I never did see sich little sojers as them Beljuns, tho' no doubt as they're brave as lions, thro' bein' little and good, as the sayin' is; but they don't give you no turn to look at 'em like the Life Guards, as strikes terror, as the sayin' is, to hevery 'art and hey.

That is 'ow they come to win the battle of Waterloo, as they wouldn't never been able to 'ave done but for Beljum, as shows as you didn't never ought to despise nothink cos of it's bein' little; and shows the Dook of Wellinton's sense in ticin' Old Boney into Beljum, as was like gettin' 'im into a corner, as in course he couldn't run away out on, as he tried to and might if Beljum 'ad been as big as Rusher, and we might 'ave been a-runnin' arter 'im till now and not 'ave caught 'im neither, as is a reglar wilderness of a place, as they did burn 'im out on once, but in course couldn't keep on at that game, as would soon burn the world up altogether.

The same as old Mr. Ufford did their four-post bedstead, a-soakin' of it in turpentine, and then

settin' fire to it, as in course destroyed the wermin, but wherever was the bedstead when he'd done, as made 'is wife give it 'im 'ot, and never trusted 'im agin, as wouldn't 'ave dared to 'ave meddled with that bedstead if 'er back 'adn't been turned, as 'ad gone to see 'er youngest dorter and stopped the night, and valued that bedstead thro' a-belongin' to 'er parents, but for my part wouldn't 'ave give it 'ouse room, as the sayin' is.

If they've got lots of canals in Beljum they knows 'ow to use 'em, for they're a-washin' and a-cleanin' all day long, partikler Saturday, as they washed all the 'ouse, inside and out, from top to bottom where we was a-stoppin', as is wot keeps 'em all so 'ealthy, no doubt, for with all them canals as is no doubt fever breeders. English parties a-livin' there as was sent to Coventry as they calls it, like Brussels, to keep out of the way, and I can't see why, for I'm sure Coventry 'as got as nice people in it as any where's else, and some a deal better, as is a place I'm partial to myself, and never see finer steeples to them churches, as is werry old, ancient, and did used to 'old it's 'ead up on a time afore free trade come in as ruined the ribbons; and Kings and Queens did used to live there, I 'ave 'eard say, as well as Peepin' Tom, as were a mean action, and served 'im right, thro' 'er of a doin' it, poor dear lady, with a good motive, as were like the circus,

where they always does them darin' bare-backed feats with 'orsemanship, as I don't care for, tho' I always did like a wild beast show, as there's werry nice Jewlogical Gardins in Brussels, but the helefant aint much bigger than a full grown pig, as some says he's sprung from, jest like Darwin, as says he come from a monkey, as I always says, let 'im think so if he likes, as no doubt 'ave got up 'is family tree, but then the man as is born a monkey won't never be a helefant, not if he 'ad a 'undred trunks, as is the same thing as 'ose as the firemen uses. Cos in course Jumbo could put out a fire with 'is trunk in a minit, give 'im water enuf to spout over it.

I never did see sich a mob as got together in them Jewlogical Gardins on Sunday, as is certinly a argyment agin openin' of 'em on a Sunday as would be sich a rush.

I see as Jumbo were a-eyein' that cage as they'd been and made for to take 'im to Merryker-in, as the keeper said as he'd just put 'is foot in it, but would go no further, so in course if he says he won't go, he won't, and Barnum 'ad better come over and try if he can conoodle 'im aboard the wessel, as in my opinion no bullworks, as they calls 'em, wouldn't 'old 'im, cos, tho' bulls is strong Jumbo would settle a drove of wild ones in no time, tho' in general friendly as I've 'eard say, reglar associates together

over in Afriker as must be friendly cos they don't live on one another and there's lots of grub for both all over the place.

I were a-sayin' to one of them keepers as I didn't 'old with parties all a-comin' a-talkin' round Jumbo about it's bein' a shame to take 'im away, tho' in course I quite 'olds with 'is bein' kep' ere; but, I says, if he 'ears all this talk he may turn savidge, and pitch into everybody, thro' thinkin' as he's a-goin' to be shot at and killed out in Merry-ker, like that poor dear President, cos as to Queen Wictorier, I don't believe as that there loonatic ever meant more than to frighten 'er, as it's all nonsense 'is family a-sayin' as he's been in a asylum twice, then they did ort to be punished for lettin' 'im loose, as might run a mucker, and kill everybody; and as to 'is father bein' in the lookin'-glass line, why, that in course might esplain 'is bein' cracked, as did ort to 'ave made 'em all the more careful of 'im, as it run in the family. Cos if Jumbo were to get loose like that, there's no knowin' where he'd run to, for all the sojers and perlice, let alone the wolunteers, as they'd turn out arter 'im, cos tho' like fire, helefants is werry good servints, they'd make preshus bad masters in the long run, as I shouldn't care for to meet five or six 'undred on 'em in a drove, as a party out in Afriker told me he see, and were kep' in a 'ole in a rock for 'ours,

for fear as they should sniff 'im out, as 'ave noses as sharp as grey'ounds, and is werry much respected, and in gen'ral keeps theirselves to theirselves, as is the way with most wild beasts in a state of natur, as in course is all over the place over in Afriker. Not but wot there's werry nice places there, and a lovely little spot, as they call Utenage, where we stopped, as did used to be overrun with helefants, but now none never seen, tho' none on 'em ever the size of Jumbo, as I should think would outgrow 'is strength in time and then be quite 'armless.

We was werry comfortable at Utenage, at a werry nice little 'otel, with a lovely gardin, as were kep' by Beljuns, as was one as see the helefants on the rampage, as aint a sight as I should care for, any more than meetin' all Mrs. Lewis's cows broke loose on the tow-path, with a 'igh bank one side and the canal on the other, as give myself up for lost, as I should 'ave been, if the wind 'adn't ketched my umbreller, and blowed it opin in their faces, and me arter it, as both on us come out safe, as is why they calls them umbrellers patent safety, as opens of theirselves, as they calls spontareous combustion, as is wot were the end of Mrs. Challin's 'arf sister, as went to blow the fire with 'er mouth, as were the copper flew, and were picked up under the pot-board, and never spoke agin, as was new rum, as were the last thing as she took, and that out of the

bottle, as is a bad way with sperrits, cos more slips down than you thinks you're a-takin', as is 'ow Old Wells come to 'is end, thro' a-tamperin' with the tap of the beer, and then put 'is mouth under to let it run in, as must 'ave went the 'rong way, for there he was reglar swelterin' in it, and tho' not dead, never 'eld 'is 'ead up no more, and died in the infirmary with a stiff neck, as in course he'd twisted in gettin' of 'is mouth under the tap, as he'd ruined with a brass-'eaded tenpenny nail, as is why I always says as you can't lock up agin a thief, as is sure to circumwent at the bung or the spiggit.

But as I were a-sayin' about Jumbo, as parties seems to be makin' a idol of, a-wastin' of their time by the 'our together, as like them parties over in Afriker as wuships 'im and 'is own brother in the name of Mumbo, cos they believes as Mumbo is a bad lot, so they're always a-prayin' to 'im, for fear as he should 'ave 'is knife into 'em, and give 'em a nasty one when least expected; but thro' Jumbo bein' that amiable, they don't notice 'im much, as proves as it's true, as in this world, you'd better be feared than loved, as the sayin' is.

The moment as I see Jumbo, that Sunday arternoon, with that cage as they'd made for 'im, I says, "Not for Joe," cos the hanimal were a-takin' of the measure on it out of the corner of 'is little eye.

So when I 'eard as they'd put chains on 'im, I says, "He's too much the true Briton to stand that, as knows werry well as he never, never shall be slaves any more than the rest on us;" and I do believe if they tries to get 'im out of them Gardins by violence, as there'll be a row like the Salvation Army for to rescue 'im, as might be orkard, cos, poor thing, he might get confused in 'is 'ead, and not know which was 'is friend and which wasn't, and so pitch into the lot, as would soon clear the decks, as the sayin' is.

Not but wot he'd obey anyone as he knowed was 'is real master, the same as Injier, where they're always on the side of them as is strongest, and would put down any mob, as they would 'ave done them Communyards, as they calls 'em over in Paris, if they'd 'ave let the helefant loose out of the Jardang de Plants, and let 'im run a mucker, as the sayin' is, thro' the streets, partikler if he knowed as he was a-goin' to be butchered like common butchers' meat, the same as a old cow or a suckin'-pig, as was bringin' 'im down to a level of the beasts of the fields.

I do 'ope they won't let Jumbo 'ear the papers read about them young Princes' doin's over in Ceylon, as is a place I've stopped at, as swarms with helefants; and in course it's werry nat'ral as they should show them royal young fellers every-

think ; not as it's proper to take 'em arter helefants on the crawl, as they calls it, partikler when expectin' an increase to the family, as am sure them Princes didn't want to see the poor mother shot, and the baby left to die, most likely, as couldn't be brought up by a cow, nor yet asses' milk, as would change their natures ; cos, in course, if Jumbo did 'ear it, he'd turn Radical, and be for upsettin' the throne, the same as Dilke, tho' we aint 'eard so much of that gent since he've got a place under Gladstin, as 'ave shet 'is mouth, leastways for a time.

Helefants in Ceylon is that strong as nothink can't stand agin 'em, nor yet set on 'em if they don't choose, cos the one as I were on with a lot of others as was passengers aboard the steamer, that helefant he were not as big as Jumbo, as we all got on 'is back, and was a-settin' in a double row, when he took a bit of a turn round the place, and then set down on 'is 'aunches sudden, as brought us all off like a slidin' scale on to the ground, and then give a roar as much as to say, "Come, if you dare ;" so arter that I says, "No more of your helefants in a state of natur for me," as it's a mussy as he didn't take and roll over, as would 'ave pulverized the lot in the dust, as was pretty thick, so in course arter seein' 'em like that I were anxious to see Jumbo agin, as were why I went that fust

time, as were settled atween me and Mrs. Padwick, never expectin' either Miss Pilkinton nor yet Mrs. Welsher.

I'm sure there aint no one more pleased to see a friend to tea than me, for I must say as my tea, tho' not a 'arty meal, is one as I relishes, and often-times lingers over too much, specially along with a friend as drops in and welcome.

Not as I can abear to 'ave Miss Pilkinton a-comin' in when the teapot's drained and them leaves won't bear another water, jest as the gal 'ave filled up the kettle afore goin' to clean 'erself, not as I cares for wittles for tea beyond a winkle or a crease or two, tho' I relishes a srimp at Margit, as comes in fresh twice a day thro' bein' throwed up by the tide.

So we settled as I should go and meet Mrs. Padwick at the Gardins gate, and go 'ome to 'er the follerin' Thursday, as takes two busses from Bow Church to St. John's Wood, as is a long ride, as I expected as the weather would change thro' the moon 'avin' took and changed 'er quarters the Tuesday afore as ever was, as I see it thro' our back parlour winder, as I shouldn't 'ave done but for puttin' up a clean blind so as not to 'ave Old Sinful, as lived next door, a-standin' on 'is steps a-pertendin' to be a-lookin' into 'is waterbutt, a-sayin' as he wondered why ever the water didn't

come in, a-knowin' werry well as it 'ad been cut off at the main thro' 'im not a-payin' the rates.

So I see as the moon, as 'ad come up when new werry much on 'er back, as is a sure sign of rain, let alone my feet, as was a-throbbin' like ten thousand daggers drove in up to the 'ilt, as 'ave made me 'oller agin afore now, and set a-tremblin' thro' fear in the bus that Thursday, a-dreadin' them bullock-drivin' parties as comes in with a rush, a-sprawlin' all over you, umbreller fust, like a fixed bagginet, and fallin' on you all of a 'eap, as is often pickpockets, as you're told to beware on, both male and fieldmale, as I'm sure that great 'orsegodmother of a woman in black satin were a thief, as jumps in and flops down on my knee, as I werry soon slipped 'er on to the straw, as I knowed a trick worth two of 'avin' 'er 'and in my pocket, not as it were 'er as trod on my foot, but that old 'og in armour, as the sayin' is, Old Sinful, as lived next door to us, as did used to be a-watchin' and a-follerin' me about constant in the Bow Road, as wasn't in the bus when I got in, but come a-stumblin' on me jest arter, tho' we 'adn't spoke for months, thro' 'im a-takin' umbridge, as the sayin' is, in me a-doin' 'im a favour in shettin' down 'is dust-'ole led as 'ad been left open wide a-restin' agin our wall, as smelt werry unpleasant in at our back parlour winders, thro' them lobster-shells bein' throwed in, as draws

the bluebottles, as comes in swarms for miles round, and 'owever was I to know as 'is 'ead were inside, thro' 'im a-divin' down to look for a tea-spoon, as were only brittanyer mettle, arter all, tho' missin'.

So in course when I sent down that dust-'ole led thro' givin' of it a shove with a close-prop, as ketched 'im pretty sharp on the nape of 'is neck, as might 'ave took 'is 'ead off like a galanteen and been left a-smotherin' in 'is own ashes, but for me givin' a orful scream when I see 'is 'eel up in the hair, as brort out 'is dorter, as drord 'im out by 'is clump foot, as she 'ung on to till 'is 'ead come up, as I were glad to see, cos tho' I 'ates 'im like pison I wouldn't 'ave 'ad 'is death at my door, as the sayin' is, as mightn't 'ave been found till the dustman come round, as aint by no means reglar, tho' they always gets tuppence from me, as is a somethink agin a rainy day if put away.

So arter that dust 'ole, he did used to call me a bloody-minded old tiger cat, as was langwidge I couldn't stand, so I says to 'is dorter, "I gives you fair warnin' as if your father don't keep a civil tung in 'is 'ead, I'll give 'im the close-prop on 'is bald 'ead, even if it is over 'is own dust-bin."

So arter that we wasn't never friends, not even to move in passin', partikler as he'd took and shied bilin' water over our cat, a-sayin' as she'd been

a-tamperin' with 'is pigeons; as I said, over the wall, in 'is 'earin', as my cat were too much the lady to touch anythink belongin' to sich a old porky pie; not but wot it came 'ome to 'im, for the bilin' water took and missed the cat, poor thing, as were layin' like a lamb in the sun, on the doorstep, and went into the milkman's face, as lost 'is temper, and knocked Old Sinful down with his yoke, as kicked over the milk pail in falling, and a pretty mess they made on it atween 'em.

I 'adn't set eyes on that old man for months, till I see 'im a-comin' in at the bus door, that Thursday, a-sayin' to the conductor he were a-goin' up the Strand, so drawed myself up as much as ever I could for to let 'im pass, when the fust thing as he does, is to put 'is clump foot down with a stamp, on my outside corn, as is like the apple of my eye for tenderness. I gives a shriek, and 'im a blow in the chest with my umbreller, for to move; not a-meanin' to knock 'im backards, as I did agin the door, as give way with 'is weight, and flew open; so out he goes, slap on to a stout party, with a bundle, as 'ad 'er foot on the step, a-comin' in, and both on 'em was a-rollin' in the kennel the next minit, as that old willin' said he'd give me in charge for, so I says, "I 'olds you in that contemp, as I shan't even anser you, but," I says, "bein' a cripple, you didn't ought to rush

about with a stick and a umbreller, like that whirlwind as you are, as will hend some day in your own distraction, as nearly sent your umbreller up my nostrums."

I didn't say no more, but could hardly limp when the bus set me down; and that's why I were sure the weather would change afore the week were out, and felt certing as there was a somethink a-goin' to 'appen to somebody, for the 'evens was fiery, as was my words that Sunday evenin', many years ago, a-lingerin' over my tea, to Mrs. Padwick, little dreamin' as she be 'alf ruined, thro' that there Sultin bein' not only decomposed, but dead and berried afore the week were out, and died thro' a suddin' blow without a rap, as only shows as pride will 'ave a fall, and 'im a-goin' about with fifty boat-loads full of 'is baggidges; and all I can say is, as it's well as he didn't bring 'em 'ere, when he come to wisit Queen Wictorier, not as she wouldn't never 'ave let sich a load of rubbish into 'er pallis; as she turned out on to let 'im live in, as aint never been able to stop in it 'erself since, above a night or two, as 'er 'art's in the 'Ighlands, for the sake of the hair.

I'm sure no beastly Turks shouldn't never 'ave 'ad my parlours, with my new carpet down, with 'is filthy ways, a dirty beast, as may do wot he likes on 'is own Turkey carpets, as must be a nice mask of filth, tho' no doubt he would look down on a

Brussels, and turn up 'is nose over a Kidder-minister.

But as to them mufties a-sayin' as he'd been and killed 'isself thro' distress, and 'adn't left a stiver, all as I says, that's all werry well for the mareens, as the sayin' is, but in course they was afeard to say as they'd took and killed 'im.

Jest as I got out of the Bow and Stratford into a Royal Oak, down come the rain like buckets, as I see 'ad set in.

In course there weren't no Jumbo that day for me, as were as well, for when I got to Mrs. Padwick's she were down on 'er luck, thro' 'avin' 'eard if she'd 'ave kep' 'er Turks, as things would 'ave took and righted themselves, cos Queen Wictorier 'ad took 'em up, as was always the friend to woman's rights, and were down like a thousin' of bricks, as the sayin' is, on them Turks, as if Old Baconsfield 'ad lived we should have took and collared Egyp', and 'igh time too, as is only Turks by another name, as don't smell as sweet as a rose for all that, as I've always longed for to see our knife into ever since the way as they treated that Sultin, tho' it's a many year ago since I see 'im with my own eyes in Paris, and to think of them others as robs you all round like poor Mrs. Welsher, as ruined Mrs. Padwick, as 'ad to go back to lettin' lodgin's, as come in along with Miss Pilkinton in the evenin', as in course 'ad 'er mouth

full of Jumbo and 'is ways, tho' she said as she 'adn't 'ad a wink of sleep over Queen Wictorier bein' murdered.

I says, "Do shet up and don't give anyone the 'orrers, as the bare mention on it reglar cuddles my blood."

"Oh!" says Miss Pilkinton, "and that dear little gal addressin' of 'er that tender as 'er dear Queen."

I says, "And in my opinion a great liberty." A nice thing indeed, if every little dirty-nose gal was to bother Queen Wictorier with sayin' as ow pleased we was as she wasn't 'urt, cos in course there aint no need for any one to say it, cos Queen Wictorier knows as well as anybody as we're all only too thankful to think as she's safe and long to rain over us, tho' I wish she'd make them Turks stump up, as would be better late than never, as the sayin' is. Not as we said much afore Mrs. Welsher, as were a cousin thro' marriage and tar brush by the mother's side, with a 'ead of 'air like woolls, as no comb in this world could be got thro', not even the edge of a baggynet, so don't like to 'ear no illusion to niggers as Turks looks down on."

Miss Pilkinton was full of Jumbo, a-sayin' as Queen Wictorier 'ad sed as she'd rather give up the crown off 'er 'ead than that noble beast.

I didn't pay no much attention to Miss Pilkinton as is a reglar old blab, and knows every-

think on the best authority, as is 'er words constant, and when I 'ears 'er say 'em I always feels sure as she don't know nothink about it.

When Brown come in he 'ad the evenin' paper, so took and read all about 'im, as were most inter-estin', and I must say I certingly were pleased to 'ear as they'd been and turned Jumbo into a ward in Chancery, as in course is larger than a 'ospital ward, tho' that there idjous New Law Courts bein' that size, and could turn 'im out to grass in Lincoln's Inn Fields and then no Fellers in this world couldn't dare touch 'im, as I well knowed myself a party as took and carried off a ward in Chancery, as were sent to prisin for showin' that contemp' of court.

As I've 'eard say a party were in the Fleet for over ninety years and only got out then thro' them a-pullin' of it down over 'is 'ead, as begged and prayed to be left there to die in peace, as the Lord Chancelor wouldn't 'ear on, so 'ad to go 'ome to 'is friends in Chelsea by a 'Oxton bus, as he didn't know not even by sight, as 'ad been invented since he'd been in quod, as is the latin for prisin, as was wot lawyers always did use to talk in them dark ages, afore French were found out or English invented.

So in course if Jumbo don't go there, why Bar-num he'll go into action agin the Lord Chancelor, as won't give in not when once he've put 'is great seal on it, leastways he can't, cos in course Queen

Wictorier would send 'im to the Tower 'ancuffed in chains in a brace of shakes if she was to catch 'im a-breakin' of 'er seal or 'er orders either.

In course there'd be a nice filliloo over in Merryker, and Barnum would lose 'is fifty millions, as is a flea-bite to 'im, as he must expect to meet with in a wild beast show, as I remembers myself bein' arf eat up in a caravan, as 'adn't only got a lion and two sea dogs, as must 'ave been the people as were up in Horsetrailier, as they showed along with the armless lady and the learned pig, as did used to play cards together, and both 'ad to deal with their mouths as they both knowed the use on by nature.

As to Barnum a-thinkin' of taking Jumbo to Horsetrailier, why, he's a-talkin' hignorance, cos they couldn't never get 'im off the steamer into the tug, let alone land 'im, unless he 'appened to be in a good humour, and would swim ashore, as the sight of a 'eap of buns might make 'im.

They 'adn't better play no larks with 'im, a-makin' of sand 'eaps to look like buns, cos he'd worry soon show 'em not to take no liberties with 'im, as don't see none of them practical jokes. I am glad as I see 'im on the quiet that Sunday, thro' Mrs. Padwick a-gettin' tickets of one Feller and Brown from another afore the rush come, cos tho' there were a tremenjous crowd to see 'im, yet

it weren't a mob, and Jumbo were that quiet, pretty creetur, as is the gentleman all over, and took and give the buns to 'is pal in the name of Alice, as he 'anded 'em to quite genteel when he 'ad enuf 'isself, as says 'ow natural—very, one party said, with a sneer, as I says you aperiently do not know helefants' naturs, as is that sagashus as would make many of their fellar-creeturs blush, as is lambs for gentleness, tho' lions to roar when put out, as is easy done like their own trunks, for I'm sure Jumbo didn't mean no 'arm when he took off Miss Pilkinton's 'at, 'air, and all, as was 'er own fault, a-makin' of 'erself that conspicuous a 'oldin' a bun over 'er 'ead on the pint of 'er parrysole in play, as in course Jumbo could see weren't no chicken to be a-playin', so collared the bun all of a 'urry, along with the parrysole, tho' a bunch of cherries as she 'ad in 'er 'at, as he dropped like a 'ot potater, and left 'er bald'eaded for parties to jeer at, as in course knew as them cherries was sham, altho' she would keep on a-sayin' as they was that natral as they took 'im in, as was werry like a wail, as the sayin' is.

But talkin' of wails reminds me of a fieldmale as tried to steal mine in them werry Gardians, as I bought a many years ago in Brussels, as were tied in a double knot or she'd 'ave got it, as were a-'angin' down behind my back as this 'ere thief give a tug at that wiolent across my throat as nearly

sent my eyes out of my 'ead, and the bun as I took a bite on, out of my mouth, as were as well, for it might 'ave went the rong way and choked me, the same as pettytoes did a party in the Isle of Wight, as spoke with 'is mouth full, and took a drink simultaneous, so got reglar lodged in 'is throat, and were a dead man but for the landlady, as took and ketched 'im a wonner with the kitchen poker right between 'is bladebones, as flew out of 'is mouth that wiolent as to break the lookin' glass over the chimbly piece, as 'ad been in the family for years, as couldn't expect no luck for the next seven, as always appears when a lookin'-glass is broke, as brought Old Trevor to 'is last legs, thro' a-settin' down on one as were left in a chair thro' careless-ness, as he throwed 'isself into unawares, and had the splinters in 'im for weeks, let alone the quick-silver.

But, law bless me! wherever had I got to over Jumbo? as it's a mussy he aint a white helefant as ruins every one he comes near. In course, me and Mrs. Padwick was a-goin' for the second time on the quiet, as 'ad been worreted over that child the time afore. So, as I were a-goin' to stay for a day or two along with er', thro' Brown bein' away from 'ome for a week, and I do not care to stop all alone with that Old Sinful next door, as is as spiteful as a wasp's nest broke loose. So we agreed as we'd go on the

Sunday agin, arter a early dinner, as we did think things would 'ave got quiet over the hanimal; but, law bless you! when we got there, of all the mobs and crowds! as I says is ridiculus, cos if he should go arter all, thro' Barnum a-gettin' 'im out of Chancery; tho' in course he won't try to carry 'im off like the groom did the young lady in po-shay, close agin Russell Square, as were a lawyer's dorter, with money thro' 'er mother, as tore 'em asunder at the werry halter, as the sayin' is, tho' they was glad to git 'im to marry 'er arterwards, when they found out as he'd been and done the right thing in givin' up all 'er property; and as she really loved 'im, as was love at fust sight, and more on 'er side than 'is at fust; cos in course no servant wouldn't make that free with a young lady without she give 'im that encouragement as aint becomin'; and in my opinion parties as trusts young ladies out with grooms 'as only theirselves to thank when they finds as they're bridegrooms, as the sayin' is. But as I says to Mrs. Padwick, if he should go to Mer-ryker, they'll be sure to 'ave 'im in waxworx at Madame Tussor's, as I've 'eard say is goin' to 'ave a new place, as no doubt they'll build large enuf to take in helefants, tho' it would take a lot of wax for to take off Jumbo. Not as they'd better try it on with wax for 'im, as wouldn't stand a blow, and they won't be allowed to torture the poor thing.

I must say as I likes goin' to Madame Tussor's, jest to see all them great parties as is past and gone, as some on'em I well remembers in the flesh, as the sayin' is, tho' I never see Daniel Lambert ; but I 'ave the Dook of Wellington ; and I do say agin, as always I 'ave said, and will say to my dyin' day ; for, I says, he were a reglar hero.

“Don't talk to me about picters, nor yet portrits neither, not to say nothink of fottygrafts. If you wants a likeness give me waxworx, as is life all over, tho' a deal more lovely in a gen'ral way, as you might think was a breathin' with their eyes fixed on you, and give me a turn when quite a child, a-seein' Lord Nelson in Westminster Abbey, layin' in a glass case, as died in the harms of victory, along with a many more as was kep' there arter their funerals, as did used to lay in state and then be showed arterwards, thro' me a-thinkin' as it were a dead body, a-lookin' jest like life, and not dried up like them 'idjous mummies over in Egyp', as can't remind you of nobody arter death, as don't look 'uman, and, I says, if they was like that when livin', the sooner as they're berried the better, out of sight ;” not as I 'olds with them bodies layin' in that state, like the Dook of Wellington, with parties as was crushed to death a-gettin' in to see 'im in Chelsea 'Ospital, as he come to at last, as shows as there's one end for us all, high or low ;

and as to bein' inbalm'd, I quite agrees with old Queen Charlotte, as forbid it, a-sayin', arter bein' Queen over fifty year, she wasn't a-goin' to be insulted and cut up like that at 'er death; as no doubt King George would 'ave been too, if he'd 'ave been in 'is right senses, and not shet up in a padded room in Win'ser Castle for years, where some says as he were ill-used by the doctors, as I don't believe, for I can't think 'ow it were as 'is good lady didn't stop in the same 'ouse to 'ave a heye on the poor old man, but went and died at Kew, for I'm sure nobody shouldn't never part me from Brown in this world, not if he was as mad as any 'atter, as the sayin' is, tho' they do say as them poor dear inflicted creeturs is always wuss with their friends about 'em, as they can work on the feelin's, as I've 'eard tell of a poor dear lady, as my mother washed for, close agin Old Chelsea Church, as 'ad a son a loonatic, as they was obliged to shet up; but, poor soul, she couldn't bear not to see 'im, as was 'er own flesh and blood, so would insist on 'avin' 'ome, to spend the day along with 'is keeper, as only left 'im alone, at the poor lady's request, under five minnits, as was quite enuf for 'im to throw 'er on the fire, and as near as a toucher caused 'er death, as shows it aint safe to trust 'em with them as they did ort to love best, tho' in course they don't know not who's about 'em, or wot they're about.

I must say as doctors is noble fellows, and no doubt does their dooties, and I'm sure tries all they can to cure any one, as they may be makin' a lot of money thro' attendin'; but suppose you let a wile quack 'ave a private mad 'ouse, as may impose on parties, as he's a reglar qualified, as they calls it, and gets a 'ouseful of loonytics, as pays well, in course he wouldn't be sich a fool as to cure 'im, any more than Old Lucket, as 'ad retired from business, as he give up to 'is grandson, as was 'is death, thro' finishin' a law suit, as 'ad been a-goin' on over twenty year, and brought in a fine income, as that young man took and wound up like a clock, within six months of gettin' 'old of the business, and went down and told the old man the next Sunday, as was took ill in the night, and in 'is family vault the followin' Friday. But in course there's good and bad of all sorts.

I must say as I often wondered as they didn't use helefants in Horestrailier, as would be able to do a deal of work as is too 'eavy for men; but they've got steam injens as is stronger than helefants is, with all their strength, as is only flesh and blood arter all, tho' I believe as it's 'ard work to shoot 'em, and a good thing too, as I wish as them poor, 'armless kungaroos was strong enuf to take their own parts, as is savagely slortered, as 'is reglar butchery.

Them Jewlogical Gardins is small arter all, as the Cristshial Pallis would be a better place for them poor beasts, as would liven it up a bit, and could keep the helefants in order, cos they could easy sink 'em down into a pit when rampageous, and not let 'em up agin till they'd got over their tantrums, as is jest like children, wants managin', specially when about their teeth, as helefants must cut, like the rest on us, as I've 'eard say as they sheds their fust like 'uman bein's, as is 'ow we gets sich lots of hivory, as makes lovely boxes and fans, and carved wonderful, specially the Chinese, as I've seen over in Horsetrailier, as some wants to send 'em back, a-sayin' as they're a immoral lot. So I says to a party, I don't think as morals is a strong pint 'ere any more than elsewheres, and the Chinese must be a bad lot if they disgraces themselves, the same as them as in Parlyment over there, as comes to blows werry often arter langwidge as I'd rather 'ear in Chinese, so as I couldn't understand it.

Parties larfed at me a-talkin' about Jumbo a-goin' to Madame Tussors, but I'm sure there's a many there as I should be sorry to see 'im standin' by, poor innercent beast, as never meant to do nobody no 'arm, but in course gives you a nasty one thro' bein' that orful strong, as were why they didn't 'ang the feller as killed 'is wife the other day, a-sayin' as

he didn't mean to, and 'adn't no idea as he'd 'it 'er so 'ard in knockin' of 'er down; a cowardly brute, to raise 'is 'and agin a poor thing as were as weak as a rat thro' want of food, as 'er beast of a 'usban' spent over drink.

In my opinion, 'angin's too good for such cowardly willins, as even now as it's lorful they won't give 'em the lash; and then the women is sich fools they'll go and beg 'em off, as didn't ort to be listened to.

I only wish as they'd be more severe with them criminel's, and not so 'ard on the poor as comes on to the parish, but I do declare as it's orful 'ard work for decent parties to 'ave to go into the workus, whether old or young, and yet parties as is kind-'arted gets imposed on that shameful as sets you agin the poor, tho' some will give false characters to 'elp 'em, for I knowed a party as 'ad been out of place ever so long as were a-lodgin' along with Mrs. Challin, as come to me to ask me for to give 'er a character.

I says, "Wotever do you mean? Me give 'er a character, as 'ave 'ad in my 'ouse only twice over arf a day's charin', and didn't like 'er ways. Certingly not."

So poor Mrs. Challin, as is a fool, said it were 'ard not to 'elp a poor woman to get a crust, as there was a lady as would take 'er for a cook.

"Well, then," I says, "I should say as that

lady were a regular soft Tommy, and will be pisoned afore she's done; but," I says, "don't ask me for a character, as the woman may be a thief for all I knows or you either."

Well, that lady took that creetur out of charity, and kep' 'er over six weeks, tho' missin' things all the time, and found 'er on the stairs beastly drunk, with a pocket-book as she'd stole off the parlour mantelshef, as 'ad dropped out of 'er pocket cram-full of pawn-tickets for the lady's things, as was table linen and 'er best chiney, as she kep' locked up for company, as that 'ussey 'ad been and pawned in that lady's name, and tried for to brazen it out as the lady 'ad sent 'er.

They give 'er six months, and I see 'er arterwards a-beggin', and last of all she died, and parties all said as it were shockin' and as it were a 'ard world, as in course we all knows, but you can't go a-sendin' thieves into places as may ruin others, not as I believes much in that, cos parties aint never ruined thro' a-doin' wot they don't like, as I 'eard of a young woman as they said as the cook as she lived fellow servant with tort 'er to drink.

"Ah!" I says, "would she 'ave been tort to drink nasty stuff as she couldn't a-bear to please the cook or anybody else?"

There was Ellen Parkin as were a engaged to a young man, as she told me, were that 'onerable and

that they were goin' into busyness in the noose-paper line.

I says, "Who's to find the money?"

She says, "I am, as is forty pounds to buy the busyness, as will bring in three pound a week clear and sometimes more."

I says, "Who says so?"

"Oh!" she says, "the parties as is sellin' it, and Charles 'ave see the books, as is kep' like copper-plate, as he's a judge on thro' bein' a engraver."

I says, "You keep your money."

It wasn't a week arter that as she come in as white as hashes, and said as she'd come to thank me for savin' 'er from a willin as were a married man, and then took on frightful a-tellin' me as he'd been a-payin' of 'is addresses to a fancy old maid as 'ad took it that to 'art, as she 'ad tried to pisin 'erself with a paraffin lamp, and then took and stabbed 'erself with 'er cuttin' out sissors, as 'ad werry nigh cut 'er carroty arter, as might 'ave bled to death thro' the doctor's neglect, as were a young man and bust out a-larfin' when told as she done it for love, a-sayin' as it were like 'is old fool of a uncle, as took and opened 'is wains with a pair of nail sissors thro' a-findin' out as a gal of eighteen wouldn't marry 'im, as was ingaged to 'is nephew, not as I considers the old man were so much to blame thro'

it bein' well beknown as he were foolish in 'is 'ead, and 'ad a keeper the same as Jumbo, thro' bein' 'ocussed in a railway, and would 'ave been robbed only the train come to a standstill in a tunnel, and the fellers jumped out and cut away, as would have murdered 'im like Lefroy.

So I give that young doctor a bit of my mind, a-tellin' 'im straight, as, in my opinion, he did ort to 'ave 'ad 'is uncle looked arter better, and not 'ave let 'im 'ave the sissors to cut 'inself out with like that, as is wot George the Fourth did for love of the lass of Richmon' 'Ill; not as he'd 'ave gammoned me like that.

"Oh," says Miss Pilkinton, "we aint all so flinty-'arted as you, cos there's others as 'ave died for love besides George the Fourth." I didn't say nothink, cos I knowed as she were a-longin' to bring up about 'er lovers, and the brewer's drayman as 'ung 'isself in the Wandsworth Road, as she said were for love of 'er, when she were a-livin' in Battersea Rise, as was brother to the baker as did used to look at 'er that tender, in leavin' 'er a new cottage twice a week at 'er door, and the drayman he brought the beer next door once a fortnight, and 'ad done the day afore as he tried to take 'is own life; but as to love of 'er, it's all my eye, for when he was cut down they found out as he were a married man, and 'ad been a-robbin' 'is hemployers,

as let 'im off, and 'elped 'im to hemigrate; not as he'd done it cos he wanted bread, but 'ad gone in for bettin', as 'ad been 'is ruin like thousins more, and that's why a many wants to put down the turf all over the place, but that wouldn't stop it any more than shettin' up the pubs will do away with drinkin'.

Tho' I did pity them teatotalers as met at the Cristshull Pallis one Wit Monday, thro it bein' that cold and showery, as they must 'ave all been dyin' for a drain of somethink, and as to shettin' up all the public-'ouses and not let you 'ave your dinner and supper beer of a Sunday, we aint a-goin' to stand that. In course them as knows as they can't take a glass of nothink but wot they must get inubriated over it, they did ought to take the pledge, and lets 'ope they won't break it, but lets 'ave liberty for them as can carry their licker proper; and as to sayin' as Queen Wictorier will stop any workin' man 'avin' of 'is pint of beer a day, as two or three won't hurt 'im if he works 'ard, I'll never believe it, let alone 'er feelin's for them as 'ave got to bring up a family, and pre'aps stand at the wash-tub from ten to twelve hours, with a infant at the breast, as I'm sure Queen Wictorier must feel for a-knowin' wot it is, thro' bein' the lady all over, likewise a mother 'erself, and a great-grandmother too, tho' I'm sure as that there

Shar were right in sayin' when over 'ere many years ago, as she didn't look more than forty, as is wot that 'airdresser's young man says to me the week before last, in orderin' of my new front, a-sayin', "Mum, if you'd 'ave saved your combin's reglar when in your prime, I could 'ave made you up your own 'air that nat'ral, as would defy detectives, and no one wouldn't guess you more than forty-fore at the outside, but even now can make you a new 'ead of 'air, as will look as if it growed from the roots, as won't bring you a year over fifty, partikler a-cuttin' the grey 'airs short off, so as not to bulge out in a tuft behind, with a little dye throwed in at the temples and behind the ears, as is the weak pints."

"No," I says, "young man, I shall never dye as long as I lives, for I don't 'old with none of them artifishul ways," as is wot puts me out with Miss Pilkinton, as always were plain, as to 'er a-sayin' as she might 'ave rode in 'er carridge thro' 'er good looks, and Mrs. Welsher, as is plain as a pike-staff, as the sayin' is, she said as when a gal she were that admired in a white frock and a green silk spencer, with a pink bonnet and red morocker shoes, as the turncock, as come to put out the kitchen chimbley, were struck up in 'caps and left it blazin'.

"Ah!" says Miss Pilkinton, a-bustin' in, with

'er mouth full of creases and bread and butter, "that's my dear mother all over, as were that lovely, and the image of the Lass o' Richmon' 'Ill, as dooks 'ad gone down on their knees to, a-beggin' 'er to name the day, the same as George the Fourth, as sung all over the place, as 'He'd crowns resign to call 'er mine'."

It aint often as I've see judgments foller false-oods like as took place then, for she took a sip of tea with 'er mouth full, as went the 'rong way, and was black in the face, and choked she must 'ave been but for me a-fetchin' 'er sich a blow between the blade-bones with the 'arth-brush, as brought 'er breath back in a jiffey, thro' 'er tea and creases, and give me sich a back-'ander as sent my teeth all a-flyin' under the grate, as would 'ave broke up the party but for Mrs. Welsher a-sayin' as she'd 'ave a fit, as she were subjc to, if we left 'er, so in course under them circumstances we didn't, and begun a-turnin' the subjc; but were werry near a-comin' to 'igh words about theayters, all thro' Miss Pilkinton a-goin' on a-bouncin' about wot she'd see at the theayter, as was two wonderful forriners as she'd see both a-actin' "Otheller" together at the same time, as she said were the finest thing as ever she did see.

Mrs. Welsher, as 'ad been brought up to the plume and spangle line, in St. Martin's Court, and

knowed all them great actors when a gal, she shook 'er 'ead, a-sayin' as Miss Pilkinton might pre'aps 'ave see two hactors a-playin' "Otheller" and Yager together, and kep' on a-changin' their parts, so as one were black one hact and white the hother.

But Miss Pilkinton she would 'ave it as they was both black at once, and a-actin' together, and fought one another like two wild tigers broke loose, a-slappin' and 'ittin' one another all over.

"Ah!" I says, "that's just like them play-actors, that is, and I do believe as some day as there'll be a orful punishment over them murders done in some of them theayters; for I'm sure I shan't never forget only leavin' of a theayter myself jest in time not to see a poor young gal murdered in 'er bed."

"Law!" says Mrs. Welsher, "they was only a-makin' believe, bless you."

I says, "You'll escuse me mum, but as I were there, and you was not, pre'aps you'll let me know best wot I did see as they was a-doin' afore my werry face, for it give me sich a shock, as the werry name of a theayter made me tremble all over and 'oller out in my sleep for months arter, and never put my foot in one agin for years, and shouldn't 'ave went then but for Brown a-sayin' as it were a dooty for to go and see Shakespear, as it

may be, and in course Shakespear must get 'is livin' like the rest on us, not as I'm one as encourages them things myself, tho' I likes amusements, specially Punch and Judy, tho' as to Punch, he aint a moral character, nor yet a good esample for children, nor yet for the British workman, but if you only encouraged them as be'ave theirselves well, why, there'd be a very few on us as wasn't in the work'ouse, or a-starvin'; for I'm sure there's parties on the 'ighest spears as disgraces theirselves, not as I believes much in virtue a-starvin' in rags."

Miss Pilkinton says, "Oh, Mrs. Brown, consider my feelin's, and don't run down the haristokrisy, cos my mother were one on 'em."

I says, "Oh! indeed, I've 'card say as she lived in 'igh families, and got werry low wages over in Ireland."

She says, "She'd the best blood in all Ireland in 'er wains."

"Well," I says, "she couldn't 'elp that."

Miss Pilkinton bust out a-cryin', a-sayin', "Don't run 'er down."

I says, "Who's runnin' 'er down, and if you're illudin' to your mother, I'd scorn to do it, if she were ever so bad."

She says, "No, I mean Ireland, as every one's got a down on."

I says, "Me 'ave a down on Ireland," as shall never forget a week as I had there; as am that fond of Mrs. O'Leary, as we stopped with, as no two twin sisters wasn't never like it, not even the babes in the wood, as died in one another's arms; and as to O'Leary 'isself, talk of company, why, I'd rather 'ave 'is'n than any room you could give me, all the world over, as can dance and sing like a nightingale, and brew a jug of punch that mild, as milk lays a deal 'eavier on the stomick, and 'ave been knowed to disagree; but Mr. O'Leary could make punch as you might give to a unweaned infant; not as ever I meant that stupid Biddy Magree to put the tumbler to the dear child's lips, as were 'er little nevvey, and it's a mussy wasn't bilin', for he took and pulled it all over into 'is little bossim, a-clawin' at it with 'is little double fists, a-cooin' and werry nigh took 'is breath away with the fumes, and then for the old grandmother to call me a swaddlin' old cow of a Saxin, to come over there with my jokes, as was furthest from my thoughts, partikler at a funeral, as they calls a wake, as I don't consider no jokin' matter myself.

Not as there were much sorrerin' for he weren't to be regretted, thro' bein' only the great-grandfather, and over ninety-seven, and left 'em all well provided for, down to the baby in the cradle, so it were wot I calls a fat grief, and not a lean one.

Cos nothink aint wuss than to lose them as you loves, and then not to know which way to turn for to get the money to lay 'em in the grave decent.

The same as poor Mrs. Matlin, as were left penniless, as the sayin' is, with five, and 'er only a-makin' about eighteen shillin's a week at bugle trimmin' and mantlc-makin' work, tho' sometimes over a pound, and 'im 'avin' been in the black artificial flower line, and played into one another's 'ands, as the sayin' is, and not a penny in the 'ouse the day he died, with water on the chest, and everything pawned, down to 'er boots, and then for 'er to say as she wished 'im to be berried in plumes, with two coaches, 'at bands and gloves, as she considered showin' proper respect for 'is memory, and would 'ave crape up over 'er 'ips.

So I says to 'er, I says, "That's carryin' of grief a deal too far, in my opinion, as made 'er sister say to me,

"Oh! Mrs. Brown, mum, don't be flinty-'earted, at sich a moment, for to try and cut 'er down in 'er crape, as is 'er only comfort to think on, with a Mary Stuart cap for weeds, and the honds a-flyin' behind, for all the world like Queen Wictorier a-settin' on 'er werry throne."

I says, "I'm sure I don't want no flinty ways, but," I says, "Mrs. Wortlin," as were 'er sister's name, thro' 'im bein' a plumber and glazier, and

never out of a public'ouse, I says, "who's to pay the piper, as the sayin' is?"

She bust into tears, as I see 'ad been a-takin' a little somethink over it, and says, "Oh, my poor, dear sister! as ever 'is family should come and crow over you with their pipers, as," she says, "is your nasty mean Scotch ways, and no more 'art in you than your native bagpipes."

I were quite took aback at fust, and then I says, "Mrs. Wortlin, mum, escuse me, I aint no relation no ways to Mrs. Matlin, nor yet Scotch neither side, and only stepped in as a neighbour did ought to, a-'earin' as it 'ad turned to dropsy, and couldn't live the week out, but didn't espect to find it all over by a quarter to two this werry day, as no doubt were the water a-touchin' of the 'art, as the legs couldn't carry it off quick enuf; but," I says, "I did not come to see Mrs. Matlin about the funeral, but only as a friend, and not to offer no advice."

Well, Mrs. Matlin, she come in jest then, as 'ad left the room once or twice, a-sayin' as she couldn't bear the sight of nobody, but in my opinion kep' a-steppin' out to take a somethink, for certingly every time as she come back she seemed werry wild lookin' and smelt of lemon peel, and broke out more louder each time in 'er griefs.

There weren't no occasions for that Mrs. Wortlin, a mischief-makin' old cat, to say nothink

about me and the crape, but, law bless you, that woman can't keep anythink back any more than a sieve can 'old water, as the sayin' is.

So when 'er sister come in agin, she says, "Oh, Jane, do not fret that dreadful! Think of your children, and you shall 'ave your widder's crape as deep as can be, and nobody shan't perwent your 'avin' flyin' ends to your weeds, if I 'ave to beg for 'em."

I thinks to myself, "A fat lot you'll 'elp 'er," as were always a-beggin' for 'erself, so never said a word.

She goes on and says, "I'm sure, poor dear Matlin wouldn't rest in' is grave if he thought as Jane didn't wear proper weeds for 'im."

"Ah!" says Mrs. Matlin, a-bustin' in, "that I will to my dyin' day, like Queen Wictorier."

I says, "There you're wrong, for I've seen a fottygraft of Queen Wictorier jest done without 'em, as shows she've left 'em off with flowers in 'er bonnet."

"That don't prove nothink," says Mrs. Wortlin, "for they might 'ave took a fottygraft of some one else, and 'ave passed it off for Queen Wictorier, for I've 'eard say that is 'ow they went on with some of them forrin Queens over abroad, and cut off their 'eads and stuck 'em on other bodies, jest for to take away their characters."

I says, "That may be all very well for forrin Queens to put up with, as may be insulted by them Grabidaldi willins and sichlike cattle; but," I says, "nobody wouldn't dare—not even Bradlor—take sich a liberty with Queen Wictorier, as even Odger and Dilke both speaks on with respect; and tho' they might wish to 'ave the Crown done away, wouldn't never dare even to think of takin' off 'er 'ead, nor stick it on a fottygraft; and as to speakin' agin 'er character, let 'em dare to!"

Tho' I must say, for one, I'm glad for to see 'er without 'er weeds, cos there's a time for everythink; and tho' in course she'll always look werry nice in black, as is 'ighly becomin' at 'er time of life, and will no doubt fret arter 'im in 'er 'art for ever, yet mustn't go on too far, as will tell on 'er 'ealth, and might end like that King as never smiled agin, and died arter a 'arty fish meal, as shows it's werry un'olsome to fret over your wittles; and some says as a good, 'arty larf at meals 'elps anyone to digest.

And certingly, if that King 'ad been made to larf, he could not 'ave over-eat 'isself, as wouldn't 'ave dared to larf with 'is mouth full, cos of the bones, as was eels, or somethink rich like that in the way of fish, as is werry well for a relish, but didn't never ought to be a 'arty meal any more than pork, as I considers it's best to 'ave a second

thing with myself, if only a stewed steak, for fear of parties a-goin' too far with the cracklin', as werry often lays too 'eavy on the stomick, tho' sage and onions takes off the richness, but apt for to bring on a bilious attack; like poor Mrs. Arbit, as took to 'er bed arter suppin' off short bones, and was give over by three doctors, with janders as yellor as a guinea, and never the same woman to look at agin, partikler 'er eye-balls, to 'er dyin' day.

She certingly were a wonderful recovery at seventy-seven, but always a woman with a constitution enuf to kill a 'orse, as the sayin' is, and put away a deal of nutriment, but never one for sperrits, tho' true to 'er beer as clock-work, as seldom brings anyone to their graves now-a-days, thro' bein' that watered, and none of that cocclus indicus in it as they did used to pison parties with, tho' severely punished.

For I well remembers 'earin' my dear mother speak of 'ow the Illinses come to be ruined, thro' the exciseman a-comin' in on 'em sudden, in the cellar, when they kep' the Yaller Lamb, and ketched 'em a-doctorin' the beer, as wouldn't be squared over it, but rounded on 'em, as the sayin' is, as lost their licence, and died a pauper lunertic, leastways, he did, and 'er brought down to charin', as I've 'eard 'er say myself, when quite a child, as that exciseman died in 'is shoes, as were 'er wishes, and met 'is

end, as the sayin' is, thro' a-pitchin' over the bannisters, overtook in licker, as were one of them licensed wittler's fates, somewheres out Wanstead way.

So that's why I were that pleased that time when Brown said as he meant for to go to Ireland, as he shet up Mrs. Alwin, as were a-takin' tea at Mrs. Padwick's, and said as she'd as soon trust 'erself in a wild beast show, as Ireland.

So Brown he were down on 'er werry sharp, and says, "I daresay as the wild beasts wouldn't take no more notice on you than the Irish, as wouldn't waste their time over you, cos both is fond of some-think jolly.

And of all the old winegar cruets, it's that Mrs. Alwin, as is reglar skin and grief, and belongs to them Ranters, as in course if she likes it, nobody don't care, but she needn't tell me as perjician is a-yornin' for me, as am sure I never did nothink to make perjician yawn, nor yet nobody else, for that matter.

She was in a nice rage with Brown, and said, as Ireland were the land for crime, as brought Brown down on 'er like a thousand of bricks, as the sayin' is, cos he's one as reads 'is paper reglar, and knows all them stray stistics of crime, and he did dry 'er up by a-provin' there were a deal less crime in Ireland than even in Scotland, as we all knows is that religious, as they won't bile a pertater on a

Sunday, as is quite right in them, if they thinks it 'rong, cos as Brown says, wotever parties believes, let 'em act up to it, partikler in religion.

Tho' I must say as I were werry much puzzled with that Fast Day in Scotland, as they did go the pace on, and were jest as great a 'olliday as they've turned Good Friday into now at the Crishshun Pallis.

Mrs. Alwin she were a-goin' to begin abusin' of the priests, but Brown stopped 'er by jest a-askin' of 'er wot 'ad become of a brother-in-law of 'ern, as were brought up to the ministry, and 'ad a chapel as he filled to overflowin', but got seven years for 'is be'aviour not bein' good.

Well, Mrs. Alwin, she begun 'a-whimperin' over that, a-sayin' as Brown 'ad stabbed 'er thro' 'er witles.

So he says, "No, I 'ave not; but," he says, "them as lives in glass 'ouses didn't ort to throw stones," as 'ad sent one thro' 'er old shanty with a wengeance, cos, as Brown says, it aint fair not to go in for that 'olesale abuse of no one, and of course if a priest does 'rong let 'im be punished for it jest like a Methodist; but, he says, "I won't set and 'ear parties a-bearin' false-witness agin their neighbors olesale, without a check, partikler be'ind their backs."

So that put a stop to all the talk on them pints, and we 'ad a werry pleasant evenin', for Mr. and

Mrs. O'Leary dropped in, as was the fust time we see 'em, as he kep' us all alive with 'is stories and 'is songs, let alone the punch, as made even Mrs. Alwin smile over it.

'Im and 'is good lady 'ad come over to London thro' a-gettin' a bit of property left 'em, as was throwed into Chancery, and they'd come to try and fish it out, and glad I were to see 'em, as made us promise to come and see 'em; and it's lucky as Mrs. Alwin 'ad got stopped with 'er clack about Ireland and the priests afore they come in, for I do believe as O'Leary would 'ave took and dropped 'er over the bannisters, if she'd 'ave dared to tamper with 'is religion, and serve 'er right too, as wotever can she know about it; and as to 'er a-sayin' as the Pope wanted to burn 'er, it's only hignorance.

"Why," I says, "you must be a-dreamin'," as 'ave see 'im myself—the one afore this--a-walkin' about in Rome, in a 'eavy shower, as mild as a lamb, in white flannin, with a constant smile.

Not as I 'eld with Alwin a-sayin', "No sich luck," in a undertone to Brown, illudin' to 'er bein' burnt, for 'im and 'er can't never agree, thro' 'im a-bein' one of them fellers as is all for politics, and says as there aint no religion.

So I says to 'im one day, "Speak for yourself, as no doubt knows your own feelin's, but can't anser for others, as there's a many your betters as 'ave

'ad religion, and plenty on it, and of a good sort too, as a nice world it would be without it."

He were a-beginnin' a deal of 'is Bradlor talk,

"But," I says, "don't waste your breath over me, for," I says, "I'm sure, if I'm ignorant you can't teach me, as is only a dyer's journeyman;" and 'owever should he 'ave the time to read about all them things as puzzles even them as is scholars; and I'm sure Lady Wittles used to make me read "Pilgrim's Progress" of a Sunday arternoon, and never could I make out wot it all meant, tho' certingly always did like "Wanity Fair," as I means to get the 'ole book on, some day, as Brown says is 'rote by a party in the name of Thackery, and nearly as good as Shakespear for a-knowin' 'uman natur, as is in course all worry well, but a thing as don't bear a-lookin' into too deep.

I'm sure, the little as I knows on it 'ave give me a reglar sickenin', so the least said the soonest mended over that, is my opinion, whether its Shakespear or Thackery, as was both great men, no doubt; not as I cares about the Shakespear's plays, as I considers foolishness worry often, partikler 'Amlet, as were that insultin' to 'is ma; but considers Macbess a fine play, tho' 'is good lady did go a deal too far, and I were sure would come to a bad end thro' walkin' in 'er sleep, as is 'ighly dangerous, partikler when a sleepin' in the two-pair

back, like poor Jane Andrews, as nothink saved from certin death on the back-yard stoness but the water-butt 'avin' the led off, as she pitched into 'ead fust; and 'er cries would never 'ave been 'eard in this world, with 'er 'ead under water, if it 'adn't been as a chimbly sweep see 'er fall, a-lookin' out of the pot, as were afore climbin' boys was put down, so give the alarm, with 'er 'eels still wisible above the water-butt, and as black in the face as your 'at, when drawed out by 'er slip, but is the mother of seven now; as shows there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, as the sayin' is.

So that's 'ow it were as we come to go to Ireland, as would follow O'Leary myself to the Land's End, as the sayin' is—of course Mrs. O. bein' of the party; for tho' Brown aint no more jealousy in 'im than Jenny Lind 'erself, as like a true wife come forard for to swear as she'd a good 'usban, and never were a gambler, yet in course I aint a-goin' to give no 'andle to parties as likes to talk about their naybours, the same as Mrs. Swinbung, as I considers a wiper, but not 'arf as bad as that little, sneakin', bandy waggerbone 'er 'usban, as is the foulest-mouthed beast of a tailor as ever I 'eard tell on, and never will believe as he didn't leave that needle in Brown's things for the purpose, because Brown got the better on 'im in a argymint at their club, as I considers a mean rewenge, and

under'and ways, as might 'ave ended in hairy-siplis but for a 'calthy constitution.

And if parties abuses me about Ireland, I knows well as I've got a welcome there, as will glad my 'art, thro' bein' Irish myself, tho' only distant distracted, thro' my dear mother's father 'avin' married a second time to a party as was fust cousin to O'Leary's 'arf-sister's 'usban's brother-in-law, as tho' a cousin were born in Seven Dials, as is full of Irish we all knows, and blood is thicker than water there, jest the same as everywhere else.

Tho' I 'ave 'eard say as 'is uncle were a brick-maker, as don't prove nothink to the contrary, when they was a-burnin' bricks all about where now the Edgware Road runs each side, and not a 'ouse for miles, till you come to Tyebun Gate, as is where they 'anged Jack Sheppard, as I always considers a owdacious bad boy, thro' Brown 'avin' read as it's all rubbish about it not bein' 'is mother's fault, and 'im a-drivin' 'er mad, and bein' took up at 'er grave a-greevin' by Jonythin Wild, for he was took in a garret close agin Drury Lane, in werry bad company, and 'is old mother the cause on it, thro' goin' out to get some gin, and left the door ajar, as the Bow Street officers dodged in at, with 'er back turned, but some do say as she rounded on 'im and got the reward.

Not as that's natral for never can I believes as

she'd do that, if she was really 'is mother, but p'raps she weren't, and then of course wouldn't care whether he were 'anged or not, as would go to a true mother's 'art to see a child a-dancin' on no-think, as the sayin' is.

But I must say honesty is the best policy arter all; cos wotever good did all the robberies do Jack Sheppard, as I won't never believe about 'is breakin' out of prisin like that, cos in course that were thro' the silver key; and it's all 'umbug about 'is tearin' down walls, as them jailers winked at as long as he'd got plenty of money, but was bound to 'ave 'im 'ung at last, jest for the look of the thing, and to keep others in bounds.

So as soon as ever I am in Ireland I means to let ev'ry one know all about it, cos if Queen Wictorier don't go, nor yet the Princess of Wales, I must, cos tho' no doubt they're werry glad to see the gentlemen as is the Royal Family, yet there aint nothink for a Irishman like a woman's eye, as he never can meet but with a smile, as is 'is natur to.

Not as we shall think of goin' afore summer, as by that time no doubt Gladstin will 'ave made everybody quiet and 'appy, not as I'm afeard of the Irish any more than a hinfant from the month, as only wants 'andlin' properly with a little management, but if Gladstin thinks as pettin' 'em on one side and bullyin' on 'em the other is the way to put 'em

down he's in horror, the same as Lord Castleray, as destroyed 'isself and were 'ooted in 'is coffin by the mob a-goin' into Westminster Abbey, as were poor spite to insult the dead as can't defend theirselves, and we aint their judges, as is lucky for them and us too, a-seein' wot nice sentences we passes on one another, both in England and Ireland.

But a-returnin' to Ireland, as I turned the sub-jic to, a-seein' as Brown were a-gettin' erritable over Jumbo, as he said we'd 'ad enuf on, wot with old women a-clackin' over 'im and them noose-papers a-ritin' a lot of rot about wot he did and 'ow much he 'ad give 'im to eat, so we was at a non plush, as the sayin' is, for wot to talk about, cos if I'd said a word about the Queen bein' shot at Brown would 'ave went out, it does put 'im in sich a rage that good-for-nothink waggerbone a-upsettin' everybody with 'is revolwer.

So I thought for peace and quietness we'd go back to Ireland, as Brown do take a interest in, as he says is after all a fine country and fine people, as in course it's nothink a-goin' over there nowadays, as I considers a mere flea-bite, as the sayin' is, tho' for my part it isn't fleas only as 'ave bit me aboard steamboats, and I shan't never forget the only time as I did go to Dublin, not about fleas, but thro' the mail packet bein' caught in a storm comin' back as tore away one of the paddles, but never turned

back, and 'ad as nice a lunch off a 'ot leg o' mutton at Chester, and my pocket picked at Eustin Square station by a feller as 'ustled up agin me a-gettin' into the cab, and begged for mussy on the grounds of starvation, tho' when searched 'ad nearly a pound's worth of silver in 'is trouser's pockets, as shows he couldn't 'ave been drove to it thro' 'unger, as is a sharp thorn as will tame a lion, as the sayin' is, and bring Jumbo to 'is marrybones, and 'ave led a many to them hacts as ends in the gallus, least-ways did used to, but nowadays it's all rubbish a-'oldin' of them up for a warnin', as is pretty nigh as much out of fashion as the stocks or the pillory, as was both werry good punishments in their way, but I'm sure I expects to 'ear soon as they're a-goin' to give rewards for them as does the wust crimes, and as to me appearin' agin that pickpocket I wasn't sich a fool as to waste my time over eight and ninepence, tho' Brown did blow me up arterwards, a-sayin' as I were a-condolin' with felony and a-'oldin' out a premium to wice.

But I don't believe if Queen Wictorier 'ad 'er royal pocket picked gettin' out of a tram to-morrer she'd ever stand about the Seshuns 'Ouse at Clerk-enwell for two days, with constant rain and a nice lot round 'er, as won't even appear agin this Maclean, tho' in course she could cut it short by sendin' the waggerbone to the Tower for life, as

would make a end on it, tho' a bad thing to keep a feller like that in idleness all the rest of 'is days, as weren't more than nineteen.

I do 'ate a law court myself, even tho' it's the Old Bailey, as I'm sorry is to be done away, where I'm sure I were treated jest like the Lord Maro's dorter many years ago by the perlice, as jest dropped in there thro' bein' in the City, and see that there Deebalang, as they call 'er, tho' spelt different with a x, but we all knows as x don't stand for nothink in French, though it means years and beers in English.

I shouldn't have went in only a werry fine young man, as is a perlice, at the werry door, as must be over six feet without 'is 'igh lows, were that perlite a-openin' of it, a-wantin' me to 'ave a peep.

I says, "No, I thank you," I says, "I would rayther not see anyone 'anged," but jest give a look thro' a glass door, and see that un'appy creetur as 'ad murdered 'er missis, as looked very decent, I must say, in 'er clean cap, but couldn't 'ave stood the 'eat.

So I didn't stop; but walks into the passage, and jest then all the Court come a-rushin' out for lunch, and who should be among 'em but Miss Walby, as we 'adn't spoke not for over two yearss.

I were a-speakin' to Young Snapley, in a wig and gownd, as is a somethink in that Court, as says,

"'Ow d'ye do, Mrs. Brown; wot, 'ave you been tried?" I wish as he 'adn't spoke out my name so loud, cos it made everyone look at me, as is, I suppose, all thro' me havin' such a werry uncommon name as Brown.

So I says, "Mr. Snapley, sir, I 'ave not, and wots more, do not want to, as I do not consider a place for a decent fieldmale, with life and death a-goin' on all round you."

Says Mrs. Tweedie, as were along with Miss Walby, a-turnin' on me, "Pray, who are you a-callin' a fieldmale, mum?"

I says, "If the cap fits, wear it, mum," and turns away, for she's a woman as I can't abide the sight on.

She says, "I'll make your bonnet fit a little better than it does if you makes them illusions to me'bein' in Court."

I says, "P'raps you're used to it," cos I well knowed as she'd been tried for shop-liftin', and only got off thro' a false oath, as the landlady took about 'er boin' ill in bed the day as the things were stole from the Whitechapel Road, as were a plaid shawl the werry ditter to the one as I've see 'er myself goin' 'er arrins in fifty times, but in course no one didn't ought to be 'ung on only a plaid shawl, not as it were a-'angin' matter, but would 'ave got eighteen months for it no doubt.

So in course them words of mine stung 'er like a serpint, as turned on me like a water plug, bustin' out and called me all the drunken old toads as she could lay 'er tung to, but were soon silenced by them hushers as 'urried 'er out of the place, thro' seein' me a-speakin' to that Mr. Snapley, a-thinkin' me somebody to know 'im, as were Lady Wittles' own nevvys son by 'is fust wife, as in course purtected me, and 'ad 'er turned out.

Cos in course it weren't allowed to use that wile abuse in a court of law, as might 'ave caught the judge's ears, and 'ave been committed for contempt, as I've 'eard say there were a party kep' in prisin for over thirty year as refused to answer a civil question as the Lord Chancellor asked 'im, as he wouldn't give nothink but a evasive answer to, as in course were a gross insult, and that's all he got by it, as no judge couldn't be expected to put up with in this world.

So Mrs. Tweedie may jest thank 'er stars as that judge were jest gone to 'ave 'is lunch, so in course 'ad 'is 'ead full of other things, and didn't pay no attention to 'er gabble, nor yet the sherif's, as looked like the royal family all 'ung in their gold chains, and as to them under sherifs, they was dressed that 'ansome, jest like footmen, only 'adn't got on them undermentionables, as footmen wears in general, and shows off the calf and looks very 'ansome in

powder a-goin' to Court, with silk stockin's and lovely flowers at their bosims, as looks somethink like a drorin'-room, as Queen Wictorier no doubt takes a pride in, as well she may, and won't let nobody in as aint be'aved theirselves proper, and 'ave 'ad a good many sham ladies turned out neck and crop, as is parties as I wouldn't set down to tea with myself, as 'ave always been able to 'old up my 'ead with the very best, and if I 'adn't, should 'ave knowed my place better than to go among 'onest women a-flauntin' of my finery, as is nothink but pride, as will 'ave a fall, as the sayin' is.

But when Brown come 'ome, a-sayin' as that there Deeb blanc were to be let off, I says, "Well then," I says, "I knowed it, but," I says, "they'd better burn the gallus, and give Jack Ketch and the other judges a trifle to live on, somewhere out of town, and let parties kill who they like, leastways, them as they don't like, and as to some old scarecrows a-ritin' to say as that creetur were aggrawated thro' 'er missis a-goin' into 'er kitchin on a Sunday mornin', and so 'ad a right for to give 'er a 'ot 'un accidental, as proved fatal, why, any one as talks such rubbish aint only fit for a mad'ouse, in my opinion," and Brown he quite agreed.

All as I've got to say is, I thinks we did ort to send forriners as does rong over to their own country, and let them keep 'em, and not for us to

'ave sich retches for a burden ; and it's enuf to make a cat larf to 'ear parties a-talkin' about murderers bein' a good sort, as means well, and 'ad p'raps been put out, like that fieldmale at 'er missis, a-callin' 'er bad names, as if she 'adnt got it all 'er own way, and could say anythink now the poor woman is dead ; and don't it stand to reason that if she really 'ad 'it 'er too 'ard, wouldn't she 'ave called out to the other servant to come and 'elp bring 'er to, and not 'ave rifled 'er pockets, and walked off with seventy pounds ; and no doubt would 'ave took everythink, if there 'adn't been the 'ousemaid in the place.

Well, it's no use of wastin' time over it now, cos all murderers is let off, and no doubt 'as a werry easy life on it, but all as I've got to say, I only 'opes they'll not give 'em the chance to murder none of them warders as 'ave got to look arter 'er, as did ought to be chained up, like a wild beast, or will pre'aps murder the chaplin, or one of the magistrates as goes over the prisins once a year ; jest like, I remember, a lord over in Injeer, as were killed by a conwict, and would 'ave been alive now, if they'd 'anged that nigger for the fust murder as he done.

The next thing we shall 'ear, is that old parson bein' cured of 'is madness, as murdered 'is wife on a Sunday at Brixton, and let out, like that party as

killed 'er children thro' jealousy, in the cap and bonnet line.

I aint no patience with such maudlin ways, cos I considers a murderer is jest like any other wild beast broke loose, and should be treated as sich; and I'm sure whenever there is a murder in Ireland, there's row enuf made about it, and tho' in course it's werry 'orful to go and murder any one out of revenge, yet when a man sees 'is wife and children turned out of 'ouse and 'ome, it is enuf to drive 'im mad, tho' he did ort to be punished, but then he aint a-interestin' young lady, as is 'ousekeeper, and tries to pisen a elderly gent, cos she thinks he's a-goin' to marry somebody else, or some sweet thing as fancies a married man, or a wife as is jealous of 'er 'usband and wants to spite 'im, so kills 'is children; nor a amiable old clergyman as is tired of a nasty, naggin' old wife, so knocks 'er over.

When parties is mad, and commits murder, they don't 'ave no malice over it, nor yet motives, like that Merrykin as shot the poor man a-goin' to work, and you can't call that murder any more than a mad dog a-bitin' you, but if one or two as they've made out mad 'ad been 'ung, it would 'ave stopped a feller like Maclean with 'is reвольver, and a good deal of other's madness and murder too; leastways, them's my views, and Brown he quite agrees with me.

So I give it pretty 'ot to any of them as talked

about bein' afeard to go to Ireland, and says, "I wonder you aint afeard to walk up Park Lane, or up Ludgate 'Ill for that matter, or even Cherrin' Cross, where I well remembers a party bein' shot dead, a-thinkin' he were Sir Robert Peel, and my dear mother 'ave often told me about Mr. Percival in the 'Ouse of Commons, as were Prime Minister, so as you may say there's dangers everywhere about, and no one aint safe; and if I'd my way I'd 'ang everyone as committed a murder jest as I'd shoot a mad dog; and if no one 'adn't never got off I'm sure as murderers wouldn't be so 'andy with their 'ands, and any'ow they wouldn't 'ave the chance of doin' it agin, like that there fieldmale as got eight years over stabbin' Mr. Moon, as is outlong ago, no doubt, pre'aps with a ticket, quite ready to kill anyone else as don't 'appen to please 'er."

But, law, wotever am I a-talkin' about, as I'm sure didn't see nothink in Ireland when I were there for to put murder in my 'ead, but quite different, as is a lovely spot, full of fun and frolics, if it didn't rain quite so much; but that's wot makes it that green and all so fond of pertaters, no doubt.

I remember 'earin' parties sayin' as it did used to be a long woyage afore steam were 'eard on, and dreadful storms, and 'eard tell of a ole family as was run aground on the Isle of Man, and settled here, so never got to Ireland at all; not in course

as the Isle of Man were unin'abited, but a rough lot, as might 'ave been wuss, cos some of them islands is man-eaters, the same as tigers in Injier, as you can tell in a minnit, thro' all their 'air a-fallin' off, as in course is a warnin' to anyone as sees a bald tiger a-goin' about, and so gives 'im a bullet or a wide berth in course, as must look werry sing'ler a-goin' about without 'is stripes, as is wot you tells a tiger by in a gen'ral way, tho' I certingly did see a black one at the Jewlogical Gardins, as were as like our tom cat as two peas, as the sayin' is.

I've see Dublin afore, as is a old anshent city, as were built by St. Patrick, as is the reason so many Irish is called Pat, and a werry nice place it is, and not that racket for to knock your 'ead off and stun you like London, tho' in course I sticks to my native land as is Westminster, tho' my dear mother never were sure whether my parish were St. John or St. Margaret's, as did ort to 'ave been Battersea, only for 'er a-goin' to see the illumina-shuns for the allied sufferin's, while a-stoppin' for a day or two with 'er married sister, close agin Westminster Abbey, as is now all pulled down, where the Westminster 'Ospital stands, as 'ad a werry low nayborhood be'ind, as did used to be called petty France, and a reglar rookery.

But in course Dublin is always Dublin, and I'm

sure for that matter London is dublin' and triblin' every day, as is gettin' that size as there might be a general rebellion broke out in Bethnal Green, without any one bein' a bit the wiser at Shepherd's Bush, and that's why no doubt they've been and got up these 'ere Museums and parks with Sunday bands, jest for to show the people 'ow to amuse theirselves near 'ome, as the Prince and Princess of Wales once went to, for to show as they was live bein's, and not only waxworx and fottygrafts, as is all as parties at the East End knowed on 'em, and that's wot Brown 'ave always been a-sayin', as it's downright foolishness in them royal families not to 'ave more grand shows, as pleases the people, and does good to theirselves.

Not as Brown is one for to leave 'is work to go a-starin' at Lord Mare's Show, nor yet the 'orse show, or anythink like that, but there's a many as is glad of the escuse for a bit of a outin', and if I was Queen Wictorier I should take and go once a year all thro' London in state, as is where Queen Lizzybeth got the pull, wicked old 'ussey as she was, as went about everywhere, and 'ave see a picter on 'er bein' carried like Guy Fox in a chair, by all the nobility when she went to 'Atfield 'Ouse, as is a place I've see myself, as did used to belong to the monks till it were took away from 'em and give to be a pallis, as is a lovely place, as

Queen Wictorier 'ave wisited 'erself and the rest of the royal fam'ly.

Tho' I dessay them lords didn't much relish 'avin' to carry that old Queen Lizzybeth all over the place, but it were more than their places was wuth to refuse, or even stumble with 'er, cos she'd 'ave give 'em a topper over the 'ead with 'er spectre, as she always carried in 'er 'and, and of course she knowed they wasn't like real lords, as made most on 'em, the same as Brown were a-readin' to me she did the bishops, as she did used to make arter 'er own patten, and swear at orful if they didn't give way to 'er in heverythink, and that's 'ow it were as she got to be called "Good Queen Bess," and made 'ead of the Church, as she were a real ornymment to.

Not as the Hirish ever took to 'er, tho' she did bully 'em pretty sharp, and never dared show 'er face over there like Queen Wictorier, as in course is too much the lady not to go and give 'em a look in now and then, the same as George the Fourth, as went to Scotland too by water all the way from Blackwall and back, as my dear mother see 'im start, as were jest about the time Queen Caroline died, as in course throwed a gloom over heverythink ; not as he ever put so much as a 'at-band on for 'er ; but then she wasn't like 'is nat'ral wife, thro' 'im bein' a married man already, as shows it's a bad thing to be a royal fam'ly, unless brought up

that decent like Queen Wictorier's, as would lay 'er royal 'ead on the block fust, afore she'd let any child of 'ern commit bigermey in open daylight.

I don't see myself wot good all them lovely parks and picters will do the Bethnal Green folks, as would no doubt a deal sooner 'ave had more usefuller things showed 'em, like I see myself over in Paris, as were a machine for to make a pair of boots in three-quarters of a 'our, as could be sold cheap, cos in course we all knows as the leather don't cost much, nor yet the paste nor the bristles, and if a man could get a good pair of boots for five shillin's, and a woman or a child from 'arf-a-crown to three and sixpence, that would be a real blessin' to mothers, as the sayin' is, for it takes a little fortune to keep the children's feet off the ground, and no use a-buyin' them cheap rubbishy boots and shoes, as is all paper, and not even fit for the 'ouse; and I've knowed servants, them as was in good places, spend 'arf their wages over shoe leather with constant up and down stairs.

Parties in course likes to look at picters and fine chiney, as they can see at South Kensinton, but wot they wants to look at in Bethnal Green is 'ow to make both ends meet, plenty of work, and reasonable rents for decent rooms to live in, and a law as would make able-bodied men as is too fond of the public-'ouse work 'ard for their wives and

children, let alone poor people bein' that under-paid for work, as did ort to be put a stop to.

But law, it's no use talkin', cos if people aint willin' to go right no one can't drive 'em, and in course it's all rong from the beginnin'

Parents is lazy and dirty, and don't 'ave no respect for theirselves, so never sends the children to school, and as to church, never darkens the doors of one, and is as ignorant as the dirt, so wot I says it's a-beginnin' at the rong end to let 'em see picters and sich like when they wants the common necessities of life, as the sayin' is.

I'm sure there's a deal of talk about improvin' the Hirish, but any one as knows the East-end of London will 'ave 'is work cut out if he'll go there and try wot he can do at patchin' up the English, as thousands on 'em lives and dies jest like dogs, only does a deal more 'arm while they do live.

Not as the poor creeturs is to blame, for they've been left in hignorance and neglect, with no one to teach 'em for so long, as in course it's too late nowadays to try and get 'old on 'em, partikler as there's parties as goes about a-talkin' agin religion, and as to morals, it's downright orful to see the books as is rote for to teach the workin' classes 'ow to live, and call that sociable progress, why, it's nothink more than the devil all over.

When I were a-talkin' about goin' over to see

Ireland, Mrs. Welding she says to me, "I suppose Govermint is a-sendin' you, Mrs. Brown, over there for to see about 'Ome Rule."

I says, "I don't want no Govermint to interfere in my affairs, as 'ave ruled my 'ome well enuf without bein' sent to Ireland to learn, tho' I must say I 'ave knowed Irish 'omes as was ruled well enuf, tho' in course some is unruly, like Mrs. Macpheeny, as 'ad a 'ansome 'ouse in Dublin, as never 'ad a 'ole pane of glass in the backroom winders cos of 'er boys a-playin' base-ball in the back gardin, and certingly was werry unregular in comin' in to meals, and would 'ave a lark in the drorin'-room, and smash the furniture over a game at blindman's buff; but, law, to see them young men treat their parents, down to the old gran'mother, were a regular picter, and as good boys as ever stepped, tho' full of their fun, but not a bit of wice about 'em, and as to Inglish a-'oldin' up their 'eads, why, I've knowed many a fam'ly as 'ave done nothink but fight and quarrel all day; for I'm sure them Gurdins used to shy things at one another over the breakfast, and young Gurdin used to swear at 'is father and call 'im a old thief to 'is face, and boasted as he cut 'is own mother dead cos she used to send 'im out on 'erran's when a boy when they was werry poor and only kep' a gal, and now as they're up in the world he can't abear to think on it, and 'ave

only got on thro' the old man a-settin' up in the quack med'sin line, and 'is son 'ave made money thro' 'avin' it on a soothin' corn-plaster, as rides in 'is Broom and thinks as he's style, but as big a impostor as ever lived, as would lie a dog's 'ind-leg off, but always was a shabby genteel lot, and is now reglar gingerbread gentlefolks.

But wot puts me most out is parties like them Barins, as went thro' the court for werry nigh three thousan' pounds, and owed Mr. Sweetbread, the butcher, over seventy pounds, and then come into a fortin, thro' 'er father a-dyin', and wouldn't pay nobody a penny piece, tho' poor Mrs. Sweetbread did go 'erself and ask 'em, thro' bein' redooced to the alm-'ouses when Sweetbread died, as he did with 'is 'ip-jint put out a-gettin' off 'is 'orse in a 'ard frost, and slipped on the kerb, and didn't live over three weeks, thro' bein' a full 'abit, with a tenderness to blood to the 'ead, and it's a mussy as the law is altered, for I'm sure it were a shame the way as parties got out of debt and never paid a fardin as they owed, as some is like the Nashunal Debt, as never is to be paid, and never will be this side of the grave, as the sayin' is, as is all we've got to look out for so far, and did ort to do our dooty 'ere.

Brown he were a-settin' a-smokin', with me a-talkin' arter supper, as says, "Well, I'm blessed,

old gal, if you ain't a reg'lar clapper to go on at all manner, for wot with Ireland, and Gladstin, and Jumbo, you've got pretty well mixed."

I says, "Mr. Brown, do you think as I've been pretty nigh all over the world, with you a-tryin' to improve my mind at every turnin', and not 'ave more to talk about than a dumb brute, as 'owever clever aint nothink in the way of intellex."

Says Brown, "I do wish as a many as sets up for intellex 'ad 'arf 'is sense."

"Ah!" I says, "right you are, as is too much the gentleman for to try to force 'is way in anywheres agin the rules, tho' I do 'ope as they won't aggrawate 'im with them chains round 'is legs, as might cut up rough and turn hugly," as I should like to at that party next door to us, 'avin' of 'is chimbleys rose up 'igher, as will reg'lar block ours up for a day or two, as I don't consider nayborly conduct.

Says Brown, "We must put up with it jest for a bit. When's he a-goin' to begin'?"

I says, "In a day or two, tho' they 'ave begun to put up a scaffoldin' on the roof."

"All right," says Brown, a-goin' up to bed, "so as we knows when to espect 'im."

Arter he was gone, I set a-thinkin', and I don't believe as ever I should 'ave took a hinterest in nothink of the brute creashun, so as to break my

rest, if Jumbo 'adn't took and turned up, as in course is the Nero of the 'our, as Miss Pilkinton were a-sayin' over supper, as were a-goin' to stop all night, for tho' I went to bed, sleep I couldn't, for she'd been a-readin' about Jumbo afore Brown come in, as we'd been to see, a-sayin' 'ow she'd been and petted 'im, and patted 'is trunk, as he seemed for to know 'er, tho' to my certing knowledge he give 'er a blow thro' 'is trunk, as come out with that wiolent puff as made 'er jump back-wards on to my foot.

So at last I says, " Well, I think we'll go, for we've 'ad enuf on 'im for one day," so I bids 'er good night, and to bed we goes ; but sleep I couldn't, for my mind kep' a-wanderin' from Jumbo to Ireland and back agin, till I'd got 'em that mixed as I couldn't tell whether I were with Jumbo in Dublin, or all the Irish 'ad come over to the Regent's Park to see 'im.

Cos there was sich a crowd that day in them gardins, as knocked you about a-tryin' to get to give 'im things, as 'ad letters and parcels a-comin' in all day with buns by the bushil and sponge cakes galore, as the sayin' is, till I'm sure he must be sick of 'em, the same as Brown says he's been for more than a week past of the subjc' of Jumbo altogether, as I says myself, for I see in that gardin others besides Miss Pilkinton was a-makin' fools of themselves

over 'im, as I wonder didn't get 'is temper out thro' bein' that clever 'isself, so in course 'ates idjots, and looks that sensible as you'd think as he could speak.

"So I can when I likes," says a voice in my ear, as made me turn my 'ead, and there was Jumbo at my elber.

"Law!" I says, "'ow you made me jump!"

"Ah!" he says, "and so I shall a-many more afore I'm done, as is all a plant this sendin' me away, cos Gladstin don't want anybody as is bigger or can make more noise in the world than 'isself, as is why he won't let the Queen come to see me, cos he knows as I could blow the gaff, but I aint done yet, as it won't pacify the Hirish to 'ave me for a land league."

But I says, "My good Jumbo, you aint a-goin' to Ireland."

"Hush!" he says, "I am, tho' they don't say so, but gives out as I'm a-goin' to Merryker and means to get me aboard a steamer, drop me over the side at Cork on the way."

"Ah!" I says, "I knows as that is the way to Merryker."

"But," he says, "it won't wash, as the truth is as Gladstin is reglar puzzled over Ireland, so to gain time he's a-goin' to 'ave me showed to fifty millions of Irishmen in Merryker, cos he knows werry well as if I were to put myself at the 'ead of

'em where he'd be, as could carry all before me, and am goin' down to the 'Ouse now to take my seat."

"Then," I says, "you'll take the hoath?"

"Not me," he says with a snort, "I aint sich a blackguard as to jeer at other people's religion, as am wushipped myself in some parts; no, I'm a-goin' down and shall walk straight in, and if they tries to stop me I shall ketch up the mace in my trunk and soon dissolve Parlymint."

I says, "You can't without Queen Wictorier's leave."

"Oh ! I shall do it fust, and ask 'er leave arterwards, as was Old Dizzy's way, cos askin' Parlymint's all 'umbug."

"Well," I says, "wotever you do, don't be wiolent, that's a dear, as might do yourself a injury."

"Let 'em dare stop me, and I'll smash the lot; so 'ere goes !" and jest then there come out of the wall sich a crash as made Jumbo jump up and say, "Come out of the way, old gal, or you'll be crushed in your bed;" and he ketched 'old of me by 'is trunk, and lifted me out on to the floor.

I 'eard shrieks, and Brown's woice a-sayin', "Wot's up now?"

I says, "Jumbo !"

He says, "Jumbo be 'anged !" and then he strikes a light, and there I was a-settin' on my

bedroom floor, with 'arf a ton of bricks afore me, and Miss Pilkinton a-'owlin,' "Oh! let me in."

Brown 'ad the presence of mind jest to light the gas and draw on 'is things, and then we see wot it was, as were our next-door naybour's chimbleys as 'ad come down ours, thro' bein' tampered with, and the wind a-gettin' up in the night.

When Brown 'ad 'uddled on 'is things I let Miss Pilkinton in; she were like a ghost for whiteness, a-thinkin' as Old Sinful's chimbley were the end of the world, as 'ad fell in thro' the wind bein' a gale, as we thort would bring the party-wall down as well, thro' the next-door roof bein' uncovered. So we 'ad a nice time on it till next mornin', as I'd fixed as we'd go and stay with Mrs. Padwick durin' them next docr repairs; so I'd got things ready to leave the 'ouse, as we did arter a cup of tea, as was made in the wash'us thro' Mrs. Challin, as were a-comin' to stop with the gal while we're away; as will sleep in the back parlour, out of the way of the chimbleys, as might crush you to death in your bed, so in course must be repaired, especially with the pots rickety, and we'd 'ad due notice as they was to be done.

But wot put me out were Old Sinful 'avin' of 'is chimbleys rose jest then, as I do believe were only to spite me, jest the same as he 'ad the drains up last year, jest as our front gardin were done up,

and the way as that man encourages cats to come across our flower beds, as shows a mean sperrit in any one, as would fire at you with a hair-gun, leastways a hair trigger, a-pertendin' as it were a strange cat arter 'is pigeons on the top of our wall, as must 'ave seen the broad of my back, as were 'angin' out a tablecloth, so 'ad my harms out wide, on the top of the steps, as ketched me in the nape of the neck, and tho' the blunderbus were only loaded with oats for to check the boys, as come arter 'is plums, they come sharp enuf to send me into Brown's new cucumber frame, as it's lucky the glass 'adn't been put in, or might 'ave scarified me to death, wuss than any small-pox in this world, as is a horful disfiggerment any time of life ; as I knowed a lady as lived in terrors of all 'er life, and died on 'em at last at 'aty-seven, as she took in a railway, thro' a-travellin' with a child in a blanket, as she took for small-pox, as were only rapid decline, for I called on the mother, and see the child, as 'adn't a pimple nor a mark about it. Tho' I've knowed parties as you couldn't never know agin arter it, the same as Susan Pike, as were a nice-looking gal, as took it that bad as nobody didn't know 'er when she got thro' it, tho' a month at Margit with me, as were Mrs. Padwick's neice, and ingaged to be married, as werry nigh knocked the young man over the fust time he see 'er, but be'aved that 'onerable, and married 'er all the same

at the old Duke of Wellin'ton, as were a licenced wittler's son, down Chigwell way, thro' 'is father a-retirin' from busyness, and givin' it over to 'im.

Whyever they should be called wittlers puzzles me, as in a gen'ral way only sells lickers, tho' I 'ave knowed them as purwided wittles, partikler Mrs. Welbyn, as were a widder out Chigwell, and kep' a 'ouse as were a credit to 'er, with a ord'nary every Sunday at one o'clock, as parties come miles to, and might eat their 'eads off, as the sayin' is, for eighteen pence, with a tap of porter as the sight on did your 'art good, in a tankard as bright as silver, and a lovely 'ead like the 'oar-frost on the top of it, as I shan't never forget a-puttin' my lips to, one Sunday in July, as Brown drove me down there, when our Joe was three months old, and tho' I says it, as didn't ort to pre'aps, as fine a limbed infant as you'd see 'im in 'is tub, in a day's walk; and talk of shettin' up the pubs of a Sunday, I'm sure I should 'ave died that day, but for that draft of beer, as Brown always said I nearly floored the lot, but must certingly allow as I think I took off my pint, but that Joe, he were a drag, poor boy, and I often thinks to myself as its singler as it should be ordered for children to grow up and never know what a trouble they've been to their mothers, the same as Jumbo must 'ave been if not brort up by 'and, as helefants aint in general; not

but wot Joe's a good boy, and a good 'usban and father too, tho' he is over six foot without 'is 'igh-lows, and outgrewed 'is father afore he were eighteen, and Brown's over five foot ten, any day.

But wot makes me that thankful is to think as we aint no burdin on our children; not but wot they'd all do it with pleasure, even down to Joe Barnes, but it's my 'appiness to think as we don't want nothink of 'em, and 'ave always sent them a somethink at Christmas in times past in the way of a present, and shall agin; not as they wants it neither. But I'm sure them ord'naries is a real blessin' to a many, tho' in course abused by some, as I considers any one a-eatin' up everythink on the table like a 'og; not but wot the trick as them two Chittlins played on Old Huckstaff, as kep' a 'ouse out 'Ornsey way, served 'im right.

Not as them Chittlins was much good themselves, thro' bein' nothink but a couple of 'orse chanter's lawyers, and bad lots both on 'em, as robbed the widder and the orfin frightful in the end, but yet that wasn't no reason as a drivin' out to Mussell 'Ill one wet Sunday, and a-pullin' up at Old Huckstaff's to give the 'orse a rest and 'arf a feed, went in and 'ad a couple of biscuits and a glass of ale a piece, as they took in the room where the ord'nary were a-goin' on, tho' they set at the end of the table, and didn't touch

nothink but their ale and biscuits, and when they come to pay, the waiter asks three and sixpence, with a trifle throwed in for 'isself.

“Wot for?” says they

“Anythink on this table as you'd 'ave liked to 'ave took,” says the waiter.

“But,” says they, “we only 'ad a biscuit a-piece and a glass of hale, and we won't pay three and sixpence for it.”

Says the waiter, “I'll call the master;” so in come Old Huckstaff all of a bounce, as big as bull beef, a-sayin' as that were the rule of 'is 'ouse, as every one as took refreshments in that room 'twixt one and two of a Sunday paid the ordinary price, as were eighteenpence a-head. “You might 'ave eat everythink on the table,” says he, “and you wouldn't 'ave been asked to pay no more than eighteenpence a 'ead.”

“Well,” says Chittlins, “I'll pay it,” and so they did, but when 'im and 'is brother 'ad got into the trap, they give it Old Huckstaff 'ot in the way of abuse, as they let 'im 'ave by the ladle full over the back of the gig, as they drove away, a-callin' 'im all the old thieves as they could lay their tungs to, at 'is own door, and a-sayin' as they'd be even with 'im; but he only larfed and called them tailors, and asked 'em to step back and 'ave a bit of cabbidge, as were 'is chaff.

They certingly was good judges of thieves them two as come to penal servitude in the end theirselves, but they took the change out of Old Huckstaff pretty sharp. Cos jest three Sundays arter they drove down one of their stable 'elps, as was named Waller, and a reglar Jumbo to heat, in a dog-cart, and made 'im get out jest afore they got to Old Huckstaff's, and give 'im two shillin's, and a-tellin' 'im to go in and 'ave 'is dinner at the ord'nary, as was eighteenpence, and fourpence for a pot of beer, as did used to be the charge, and twopence for the waiter.

This 'ere Waller were a chap as I calls a un-licensed wittler, for he would heat a leg o' pork at a meal and crack the bone for the marrer, a reglar gorgin' willin'.

That Sunday mornin' them Chittlins 'ad 'im up early and kep' 'im away from 'is breakfast, and then took and landed 'im close agin Old Huckstaff's about one o'clock, and drove on for about arf a 'our.

It were jest about arf-past one o'clock as they come back and drove up to Old Huckstaff's door, and 'eard the blazinest row a-goin' on as ever was, and see Old Huckstaff, two waiters, and two other chaps a-tryin' to turn Waller out of the 'ouse, as they said 'ad been and heat up the 'ole dinner.

"'Allo!" says they; "wot's the row?"

The moment as Old Huckstaff see 'em, he 'ollers

out, "It's the tailors ! I'm done ! Put on your coats, lads, and let the beast go, as'll die of a surfit."

"Who are you a-callin' a beast ?" says Waller.

"Who indeed ?" says the Chittlins. "This gent is a friend of ours."

"Go on !" says Huckstaff ; "go on ! I'm done !" But he says to Waller, "I tell you wot I'll do. I'll pay for your dinner next Sunday at the Blue Anchor down the lane, and give you a shillin' over, if you'll go there and serve the landlord the same trick."

"I'm on !" says Waller.

"I'll 'old the stakes," says Sam Chittlins.

"No," says Old Huckstaff, "when I comes to think on it, I won't, tho' I do owe 'im at the Blue Anchor a grudge."

So the Chittlins they drove off a-larfin' fit to kill theirselves, with Waller up behind, and stopped to get a drink at the Blue Anchor, as the landlady were a werry pretty woman, as nearly died a-larfin' when she 'eard 'ow they'd served out Old Huckstaff, as were 'er own uncle ; and certingly Waller 'ad done justiss to that ord'nary, for he'd heat nearly all a weal and 'am pie, 'ad been 'elped four times to leg of mutton, and then 'ad took and 'elped 'isself three times to a fillet of weal and 'am, as he cut arf a inch thick, and were got out of the room by five men at 'is third 'elpin', and broke a lot of glass and upset everythink in 'is struggles, and took the law

agin Old Huckstaff, leastways them Chittlins did, thro' bein' lawyers, for turnin' of 'im out, and got the day too, as were bestin' 'im with a wenjance, as the sayin' is.

But law, wot any one can be a-thinkin' about to heat like that, makes me stare agin, for I wouldn't do it not for all the world, as nothink aint wuss than a overloaded stomick, not even for Jumbo, as brings on all them gouts and things as parties suffers from in gettin' old, not but wot natur must be kep' up of a Sunday as well as working days, and there's a many as never gets a bit of dinner comfortable and 'otescept of a Sunday.

I've 'eard say as them good old-fashioned ord'naries is bein' done away with everywheres, as I'm sorry for, cos as I remembers 'earin' a party say when I were quite a gal, as he did used to walk up to 'Ighgate of a Sunday when the weather were fine and get a good mouthful of fresh hair and a belly-full of dinner, as died over ninety, and remembered things as 'appened when he were quite a boy, as were Old King George a-comin' to the crown along with Queen Charlotte, as were always plain, but a fine fam'ly every one on 'em.

Ah! in them days there wasn't no rows about a-shettin' up the public-'ouses of a Sunday, and there did used to be lots of tea gardins, as parties could go out to of a Sunday evenin', aud get a little

fresh hair, arter bein' stived up in their shops and rooms all the week, as is their proper places, and it wasn't thought no sin for the band to play, nor yet the orgin at Bagnige Wells, as were somewhere near Coldbath Fields, and as to White Condick 'Ouse, it were crowded of a Sunday, as did used to be considered quite the country, without no 'busses for to get you 'ome, as I'm sure is that crowded now-a-days at that Wictorier Stashun, as it's a reg'lar fight for to get a place, and I'm sure I often wonders 'ow them bussmen keeps their tempers at all, worked as they are, seven days a week, not as that feller need 'ave been that insultin' to me, a-sayin' as he were full inside, and wouldn't 'ave no Jumbos inside nor out, for fear as they should pull the buss over, 'orses and all, in gettin' up.

I says, "Do you think, young man, as I'd take and climb on to that roof?"

He says, "You'd be the death of them insides if you did; for there aint no roof in this world, except outside St. Paul's, I don't believe, as would bear you."

I escused that young man, thro' 'im bein' tight, not as I'm one of them as makes light of parties bein' give to drink, as is a orful wice; and as to bein' drove to it, that's all rubbish, and it aint no escuse, as I says to Mrs. Maltus, as kep' the "Green Dragon," and 'ad no doubt a deal to put

up with thro' Tring, as were 'er fust, bein' that gay character, tho' he did weigh over twenty stun, and was only the potman to 'er father, and died rollin' in agonies five years arter, but that wasn't no excuse for 'im, as 'ad four children by 'er fust, to bring up, and as nice a-lookin' family as you'd see now and agin.

I think the eldest were about seventeen when she died, and it was only for that gal's sake as I went into the place, for I'd been reg'lar disgusted with Mrs. Maltus the last time as I were there, and when that Maria Tring come into my place, as white as a sheet, and says, with tears in 'er eyes,

"Oh! Mrs. Brown, pray do come to mother, for they says she's a dyin', and that man,"—for she never wouldn't call Maltus father—"he won't 'ave it as there' anythink the matter with 'er, and there's that 'Melia Clusby in the bar, a-comin' Queen Wictorier over everybody, and a-sayin' as mother's a drunkin sot, and will be a 'appy release."

So I says, "I'll step over with you," cos I knowed as Maltus were quite capable of anythink over them children's property, as was the busyness, tho' the mother was allowed for to carry it on.

So I says to Maria, "You go on by the buss and fetch your Uncle Tring, as was left trustee, and we'll see wot's wot."

So I give 'er the buss fare and started 'er

off, and then turns to and puts on my things for to go and look arter 'er mother.

I'm sure parties as talks about bare gardins for uproar and confusion did ought to 'ave see that "Green Dragon" that arternoon, as I went in, with the bar full of brickmakers, and no one to serve 'em but the potboy and a bit of a gal, while that 'ussy, Melia Clusby, were a-settin' all dressed out in the little back parlour, a-pretendin' to play the pianer, as she don't know no more on than a cat, and were only makin' a orful rattlin' on the keys, with that drunken beast Maltus a-settin' there reglar stupid thro' drink, a-smilin' like a idjot' a-sayin', leastways a-'iccupin' out, "Brayvo, Milly!"

I jest give a look in at the door, and goes straight up to that poor woman's room, and there I see 'er a-layin' that bloated objic, and 'er eye bunged up with the hairysipilis, as 'ad set in. I see as she were werry bad, tho' 'er senses wasn't gone; but as soon as ever she see me she began a-wimperin' about Charley bein' that cruel to 'er. I 'adn't 'ardly no patience to anser, thro' a-knowin' as she'd been and throwed 'erself at the feller's 'ead, as were only two-and-twenty, and 'er forty-eight at the werry least.

So I says, "Don't be a-thinkin' about Charley, but think about your children and about yourself."

"Oh!" she says, "to think as he'll marry that

good-for-nothink 'ussey when I'm gone, as 'ave threatened for to dance over my grave."

I says, "Let 'im marry who he likes, but jest you tell me, 'ave you settled all your affairs for this world?"

"Oh!" she says, "I wants to make a will to purvide for Charley. Where's my children? Let 'em come and promise me as he shan't never want nor come to starve."

I didn't say nothink, but felt as she 'adn't been and made no will, nor nothing as could keep them children out of their rights. So I says to 'er, "Now," I says, "you keep quiet, and don't fret yourself about nothink in this world."

So she says, "I don't; and as to the next, it's all glory."

I says, "Is it?"

She says, "Don't you believe it?"

I says, "I do, for them as deserves it."

"Oh!" she says, "I'm a-goin' to glory."

"Well," I says, "I only 'opes you may get there."

She says, "My minister said so only five Sundays ago."

"Ah!" I says. "Well, if I was you, I'd take and think of all the 'rong things as I'd done, and feel sorry for 'em."

She says, "You wants to destroy my 'opes."

“No,” I says, “I wants you to ask pardon for all your foolish bad ways, a-marryin’ this young feller when your ’usban’ ’adn’t been dead a month, and a-drinkin’ like a fish, as you ’ave done, as ’ave brought you to the grave. Now,” I says, “you’ve asked me wot I think, and them’s my sentiments, as your’re welcome to.”

“Ah!” she says, “you never was a converted character; but,” she says, “why won’t Charley come to see me?”

I says, “Cos he’s too drunk to get up-stairs, and besides that he don’t want to see you, as he says ’ave been the cuss of ’is life, and drove ’im to drinkin’ thro’ your jealous temper.”

Jest then ’er dorter come in along with ’er uncle, so I left ’em to theirselves, thro’ not a-’oldin’ with interferin’ in family affairs.

But I ’eard as Maltus and that barmaid was both turned out of the ’ouse that night for kickin’ up a row, and as to that poor woman she were berried the follerin’ Toosday, and Charley he took fifty pounds to hemigrate with, and me and Brown see ’im bill-stickin’ in New Zealin all in rags, as we passed in a coach, not as we should ’ave noticed ’im or give ’im anythink, for we ’eard as he were a out-cast as drunk away heverythink, and as to that Melia, I believe as she turned over a new leaf and were married in the fried fish line somewhere off Tottinem

Court Road, as is a good busyness if you sticks to it, like anythink else, as in course won't look arter itself.

Well, as I were a-sayin', me and Brown started for Mrs. Padwick's along with Miss Pilkinton.

So when we was in the cab alone and 'ad set Miss Pilkinton down at the railway, as were goin' to stop at Chalk Farm, Brown says to me, "Martha, I've got a favour for to ask of you, as is that you'll drop Jumbo asleep or awake, cos tho' he's a frustrate feller no doubt in 'is way, a-lookin' at 'im as a helefant, yet you may 'ave too much of a good thing, as is my feelin's over that hanimal."

So I says, "Certingly, my dear, if it is your wishes," and I didn't say another word about Jumbo, much as I feels for 'im, and give Mr. Padwick the hoffice not to illude to nothink as may lead to the poor thing, as I suppose will 'ave to go to Merryker by fair means or foul, now as the Lord Chancery 'ave give 'im up, and won't make room for 'im in 'is 'Igh Court.

So I shall keep my weather eye up to see by the papers whether he goes or not, and I must go on with Ireland, or this 'ere Channel Tunnel in talkin' to Brown, as is always my plan for to wary my conversations, the same as I alters my suppers, jest to please 'im, and won't open my lips over Jumbo, till he breaks the hice, as the sayin' is, as will be when he gets werry near to Merryker, cos I

do think with Brown, as we've all been a little bit too 'ot over sellin' a helefant, as is wot they calls 'olesale, as never can be retailed, the same as them books tells you as they sells at the bus doors, as gives 'is birth, parintage, and edication, with lovely worses rote under 'im from a infant, as no doubt would 'ave growed up a dootiful son to 'is poor old mother, tho' in a gen'ral way animals don't seem to 'ave no feelin' for their parints, nor yet parints for their offspring, for I've knowed our cat turn on 'er own son like a reglar spitfire, long afore he was growed up, if he come any of 'is free ways, a-tryin' to collar 'er cat's meat, or tamper with 'er milk, as she comes for as reglar as any Cristshun, and can 'ear the cat's-meat man two streets off, and sets a-waitin' 'arf a 'our for the milk of a arternoon, so in course if a animal like a cat 'ave 'er senses about 'er, wot must a helefant 'ave, as knows 'is keeper as well as a beggar knows a dish, as the sayin' is.

I do 'ope as there'll be no more fuss about Jumbo, and as he'll go on to 'is trolly like a lamb, as it's a pity as Alice can't be took fust, tho' she aint wanted. I know as he'd 'ave got quite fond of me, if I'd 'ave 'ad the care on 'im, not but wot 'is keeper must 'ave done 'is dooty by 'im, or he wouldn't never 'ave been that fond of 'im, as to shed tears in partin'. It will be a grand sight to

see 'im arrive over there, as the President, no doubt, will come out to meet, cos Jumbo 'ave walked in Lord Mares' shows, with the men in harmour, and in course the Lord Mare is a deal grander than any Merrykin President, as aint got no state caridge, nor yet a Mansion 'Ouse, and quite like a king for a year, tho' the last one weren't nothink grand, but then he come from the colonies, and were a tea-totaler, so didn't have no grand banquets, but partial to tea and creases, as is them Colonials simple ways, poor things, as in course aint never 'ad no grand ideers, nor yet fine buildin's, nor no army, nor yet a navy, nor any of them old anshent ways, as 'ave come down to us from father to son, and there's a good many of them as don't know who their fathers and grandfathers was, and wouldn't be proud on them if they did, thro' 'avin' come away from England that young, as they didn't know nothink of their antedecents, as the sayin' is.

I don't suppose as Jumbo can remember 'is parents over there in Injier, as no doubt was all dressed out in silks and gold like royal fam'lies, as he'll find Merryker a great come down, tho' there's many Merrykins as fond of finery and show as any Injin, as is 'uman natur, and them as pertends to despise sich things did ort to go and live by their-selves on the top of a mounting or somewheres out of the way of their fellow-creeturs.

Barnum he thinks a deal of twenty helefants, as he considers a grand show, but aint nothink to Injier, where they keeps 'em by the 'undred, and goes out a-'untin' on 'em, as is fine sport, tho' I've 'eard say as a helefant don't fancy a tiger, as he'll bolt away from the sight on, and small blame to 'im, as they do say he can smell a mile off, as can't be true or he'd 'ave smelt 'em like a rat in the Jewlogical Gardins, as is a place I don't think they've got in Merryker nor yet in Horsetrailier, as might be lovely, but in course them colonies aint nothink but in their infancies, as the sayin' is, tho' they don't think so and no one won't tell 'em, cos if you was to take conceit out of 'em, where would they be?

Them as lives as long as Jumbo will no doubt see great changes all over the world, but there's one change as I don't think nobody won't ever see, and that is the rich man not a-wantin' to grow richer, and lettin' the poor one be master, as would be jest as natral as if Jumbo was to let 'isself be led about by a rabbit, or a tiger by a kid.

As to Jumbo, he'll last for ever and not be done up, nor yet 'ave 'is trunk relined nor want 'ilin', as smells faint like castor ile, as is natral to 'im, as is a noble beast, as I wishes 'im luck wher-ever he goes, and all them as takes care on 'im and is kind to 'im, for as to 'is killin' 'is keepers, I don't believe it, as is only got up for to frighten

parties out of keepin' 'im 'ere, as wouldn't be kind under them circumstances to Barnum to let 'im 'ave 'im a bargain, and as to 'is sendin' of 'im back by Cristmus, he'll do that long afore if Mr. Jumbo begins any of 'is larks, as preaps he'll put on jest to take them Yankees in and get sent back to Old England, as 'oners and loves 'im, and young England too, for that matter.

THE END.

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